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Football players involved in robbery, held without bond

By **HARRY COLEMAN**
Sports Editor

Three Golden Panther football players arrested on July 3 are still being held in jail without bond.

Everett Baker, Damos DeMerritt and Randy Arnold are under investigation after allegedly trying to rob two students in an incident that included gunshots being fired.

Of the three students, Defensive Back Baker, 20, faces the most serious charges of the three which include attempted murder for firing into an occupied vehicle, two counts of armed robbery, possession of a weapon on university grounds and two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Both Arnold, 20, and DeMerritt, 21, are charged with two counts each of armed robbery, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and possession of a firearm on school grounds.

DeMerritt also faces felony charges of a concealed firearm and possession of marijuana.

According to the FIU Public Safety Police report, two FIU students were headed to pick up a mutual friend

See **FOOTBALL**, page 11

Medical School gains community support

By **C. JOEL MARINO**
Asst. News Editor

After a decade's worth of plans to establish the first public allopathic medical school in South Florida, FIU officially submitted its formal proposal to the Florida Board of Governors on July 8.

Described as "the next step in a long, hard path" by FIU President Modesto A. Maidique, the proposal coincided with several announcements regarding the future of the highly promoted medical school initiative.

At a conference held in the MARC International Pavilion, the university was presented with a \$10 million ceremonial check on behalf of Herbert A. Wertheim, a 15 year member of the FIU Board of Trustees, a donation referred to as "the Wertheim Chal-

lenge" by President Maidique.

The gift was granted in hopes of stimulating enough public interest in the project to raise another \$10 million which, when paired with financial support from the state government, would result in a \$40 million fund to be used exclusively for medical school purposes.

Along with the grant, the university formally announced a future alliance with four of Miami's most important hospitals (Mt. Sinai Medical Center, Mercy Hospital, Baptist Health and the Miami Children's Hospital), an arrangement which would supply the incoming students with on-the-job medical training and clinical residencies.

"The history of FIU is a history of responding to the community's needs," said President

See **MED SCHOOL**, page 2



HUNGRY SUMMER NIGHTS: As eating facilities in the Biscayne Bay Campus close earlier for the summer term, many students find themselves searching for other means to satisfy those after-hour food cravings. **ELIZABETH PEREZ/THE BEACON**

FAMISHED AT FIU

BBC food services cut back hours of operation

By **MARYANLY HERNANDEZ**
Staff Writer

Students complain that if you're looking for a hot meal at the Biscayne Bay Campus after 2:30 p.m., you're out of luck.

During the summer term, the BBC food court's Subway, Little Charlie's Pizza and Grille Works will be opened from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

After 2:30 p.m., the remaining option is the Oasis, where students can mainly buy coffee, smoothies and pre-packaged sandwiches. The Oasis is opened from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and until 2:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Despite complaints that the short amount of hours are not enough to satisfy every student's nourishing needs, those responsible for the decision stand firm behind their choice.

"We'll see maybe two or three people walk by [after closing time]. That's not enough clientele," Paul Bucklin, the BBC supervisor for Aramark, said.

Aramark is the company in charge of the food services on both campuses.

Paul Sparks, Aramark's BBC food service

director, explained that he and Nicholas Diciacco, the executive director at BBC's business and finance department, determined the food services' hours of operation.

Sparks said that the factors taken into consideration were the number of students on campus and the amount of revenue.

However, according to the bid contract between FIU and Aramark, the final decision falls on FIU. The contract states that the "contractor agrees to provide food service on days and during hours as required by the university."

Dr. Paul Gallagher, senior vice president and chief of staff (then executive vice president), whose signature appears on the contract, was unavailable for comment.

"If we are paying for tuition, we should be paying for the accessibility of all services," said Michelle Arean, a senior and communications major who works for FIU but who cannot have dinner before class because her shift lets out after the amenities close.

Aramark has to pay FIU commission from a percentage of its revenues and a 6.5 percent sales tax. "We may not make a profit and we still pay

See **ARAMARK**, page 3

WEB EXCLUSIVE

Inner workings of **Spectrum** exposed.

INSIDE

Get in shape at FIU gym. 12



Summer activity guide fights boredom, eases wallet. 6

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NEWSFLASH

NATIONAL

Officials speculate Al-Qaida planning major attacks in advance of elections

Bush administration officials released a warning on July 8 of possible "large-scale" al-Qaida terrorist attacks before the November presidential election that are intended to influence the outcome.

According to a White House source, federal and state agencies are stepping up security efforts in response to the latest threat.

A senior administration official said there was evidence that al-Qaida plans for an election-linked attack are under way or near completion. Osama bin Laden and other senior al-Qaida leaders may be directing the attacks from their hideouts along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, the official said.

Some of the current concerns grew from investigations of recently arrested terror suspects in England, Jordan and Italy. Police recovered ingredients for explosives, such as ammonium nitrate fertilizer, chemical agents and caches of weapons, according to news reports.

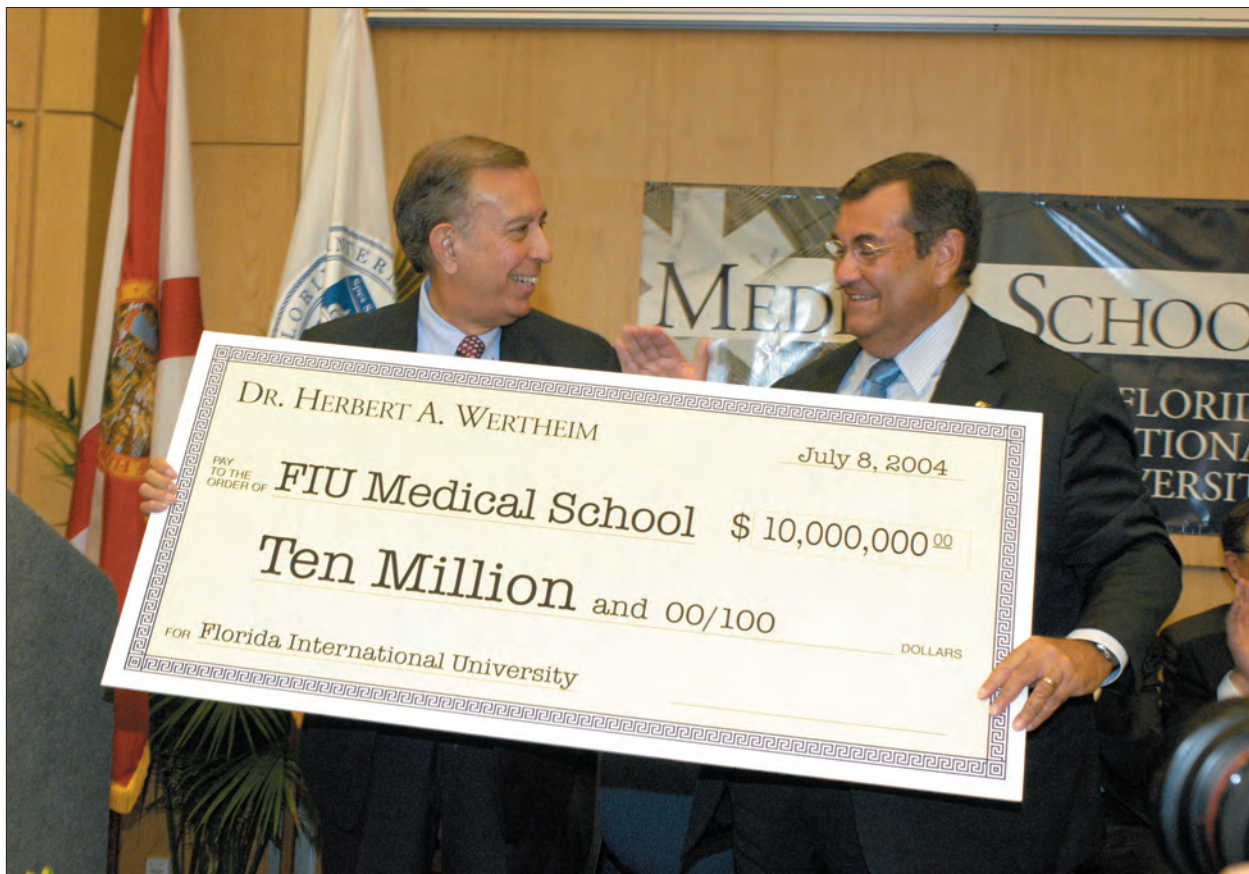
Kerry chooses former opponent Edwards as running mate

Democrat Senator John Kerry announced his selection of North Carolina Senator John Edwards as his Presidential running mate on July 6 morning by lauding Edwards as a courageous "champion for middle-class Americans."

He portrayed Edwards as a potent challenger to Vice President Dick Cheney and, in an e-mail to supporters, said he looked forward to the two men going "toe-to-toe."

Sen. John Kerry and Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina began campaigning July 7 for the first time as running mates in the battleground states of Ohio and Florida, introducing a new Democratic ticket that strikes a balance in geography, personal background and temperament.

With Edwards, experts say that Kerry adds a Southern-fried charismatic face to his sometimes stiff Yankee demeanor and offsets his background of Ivy League privilege with a politician whose roots are planted in the working class.



SHOW ME THE MONEY: FIU President Modesto A. Maidique (left) and alumna Adolfo Enrique hold a ceremonial check representing the \$10 million grant offered to the university by Herbert A. Wertheim as part of the \$40 million Medical School "Wertheim Challenge." COURTESY PHOTO

FIU seeks to solve shortage of in-state doctors

MED SCHOOL, from page 1

Maidique, introducing the university's reasons behind the initiative as presented by Provost Mark Rosenberg.

Among the facts presented, the one of most importance and urgency was considered to be the major shortage of 200,000 physicians currently being experienced by the state. Of the doctors presently involved in the work-force, 42 percent are over the age of 55 and a quarter of these are older than 65.

Though Florida already spon-

sors four universities with allopathic medical degree programs, the provost acknowledged the fact that most of the young, graduating doctors have a tendency to find jobs out of state.

"Florida is already importing 80 percent of its doctors," Rosenberg said.

With these facts in mind, FIU officials and their supporters are lobbying for the M.D program as an innovative solution to the dramatic medical work-force shortage.

"If there is a shortage of physicians, it's also true that there's a shortage of physicians who understand the changing multicultural diversity we face," said Rosenberg, referring to South Florida's ever growing immigrant population placed in crisis by the lack of medical staff.

FIU currently holds a Medical Honors program alliance with the University of South Florida and will be, next to the University of Miami, the only school with an M.D. program in the region.

CLASSIFIED

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The Beacon is seeking applicants with media layout/design experience in Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe Pagemaker. Stop by GC 210 or WUC 124 to apply.

PantherSoft leaves some students, faculty in the dark

By **BRENDA ADRIANZEN**
Contributing Writer

FIU's new computerized administrative system, PantherSoft, is gradually becoming implemented university-wide, causing students, staff and faculty to look at the system and gauge its success; so, far the results have been mixed.

The system is expected to make all university transactions quicker and simpler to process.

Although PantherSoft will not completely replace the old Legacy system until the end of the summer semester, several departments, including Admissions and Financial Aid, have been using the new system since the spring.

According to Ana Sarasti, director of Financial Aid, her offices have been using the web-based system to correspond with returning students.

Thus, students have been informed of missing documents or awards they are eligible for without having to wait days or weeks for the information to reach them through snail mail.

"Students can correspond with us quickly. The system has opened up [several means of] communications between us and the students," Sarasti said.

Still, Financial Aid has experienced some problems. "A disadvantage to the system is that it is data entry intensive," Sarasti said. "For certain transactions



AS EASY AS...: Students and faculty admit that the transition to the new university-wide PantherSoft System may not be as smooth a change as once thought. PantherSoft will not completely replace the old Legacy system until the end of the summer semester. **ELIZABETH PEREZ/THE BEACON**

we have to use multiple screens where we only used one in the Legacy system."

Furthermore, recalculation of awards has to be done manually and the verification process used for federal aid requires manual interaction.

"The system has worked well, but not perfectly. However, I am very pleased with the performance," said Sarasti.

The Admissions office has been receiving undergraduate applications through the system. There have been errors due to conversion problems that have

caused some new students to have to be admitted manually rather than electronically. The staff has gone through training and is trying to work through the small conversion problems they have encountered.

Jose Vasquez, a junior and engineering major, believes it will take time for everyone to become comfortable with the PantherSoft system.

"I know some people who are confused by it. I'm not exactly sure when I'm supposed to use it or not"

Sarasti agrees that the con-

version process has been and will continue to be hectic. Still, she is intent on overcoming the obstacles.

"I am optimistic the system will affect students in a major way," she said.

Assistant director of Orientation and Commuter Student Services, April Mann, believes that the system is user-friendly. Although the system has not affected advising for the summer term, peer advisors and staff have used the system in preparation for fall orientation.

"The best thing about Pan-

therSoft is that it interfaces with different offices within the university," Mann said.

University departments are hopeful to get through the problems and make the system a success.

Other departments, such as Registration and Student Financials (formerly Cashier's and Bursar's offices) went live July 6.

"We have no clue as to what problems will come about, but we'll take it day-by-day," Registration staff member Lino Pico said.

Students complain about hours of operation at BBC food court

ARAMARK, from page 1

the commission to the university," Sparks said.

"There's nobody really here on campus for them [BBC food court] to stay open and make a profit," Bucklin said.

Sparks explained that BBC is a retail facility, which offers only a declining balance meal plan. Without an all-you-can-eat facility offering a fixed cost, BBC is driven by profit.

Aramark-owned Fresh Food Company, which offers an all-you-can-eat system at University Park, closes at 2:00 p.m. The remaining options are Pollo Tropical, Subway and Java City, all Aramark franchises.

Edy's, Smoothie Time and Barnes and Nobles Café also stay open.

After these places close, the student can opt for the Breezeway Café in University Towers, opened until 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and until 7 p.m. on Saturdays.

Bucklin explained that even though there are summer camps each summer, food court employees are laid off because they work with a skeleton crew, the minimum amount of workers needed.

Despite the current problems, the hours of the Oasis have been considerably altered when compared to last summer, being that the place was not opened at all on Fridays.

Sparks is also responsible for the food court and the Oasis opening half an hour earlier than last summer's starting time.

Sparks said that during each semester, food services check the class schedules to analyze how early the earliest classes start and how late the last classes end. This insures that the hours accommodate the majority of students' schedules.

Kevin Cayard, a senior and business major living on campus, said "I have class at two o'clock and 6:25 p.m. and if I can't leave campus I'm stuck eating candy bars out of the vending machine."

Cayard also added, "Driving, traffic, all that stuff just wastes time. It's a dissatisfaction to the students," referring to students' search for food elsewhere.

"I would love to be able to offer more variety and more products but I'm limited by my freezer space and my refrigeration," Sparks said. "Our Grille Works and Café Features are monitored by our company's headquarters and we have to bide by its menus and recipes."

According to Sparks, some students at BBC have found a solution.

"Some students have even taken the shuttle down to South campus and eaten their dinner down there," he said. "They can have a meal plan at UP."

Starting fall semester, food services at both campuses will go back to regular hours. Such food places as The Pizza Hut Express and Café Features will return to BBC's food court.

For now, each student has to find his or her own solution to the problem.

"Sometimes I bring snacks; sometimes I starve," said Michelle Arean.



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LIFE!

July 12, 2004

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blissful summer BOREDOM

Fight summer doldrums with inexpensive Miami outings

By **JOHN LOVELL**
Managing Editor

Who would've thought that a summer in Miami could be so boring? Being stuck down here isn't as fun as it seems, whether you work a mindless job, take some lame classes or just sit around in your pajamas all day.

To make things even worse, this isn't simply a summer in Miami; this is a summer at FIU, and unfortunately there aren't very many exciting things going on.

This brings you here, in the dead middle of summer with absolutely nothing to do. That must explain why you're reading this issue of *The Beacon*, huh? Fortunately, this is your lucky day!

Here is a roundup of several interesting things to do and places to see this summer. It's all on the fairly cheap side too; we're college students damnit! There are no Bright Futures scholarships in the summer semester.

Food: Dogma Grill, 7030 Biscayne Blvd.

Celebrate the summer sunshine with a hotdog al fresco at Dogma Grill, a tiny oasis on a turbulent Biscayne Boulevard. These aren't ordinary wieners and the "it's a frank philosophy" slogan will suddenly make sense when glancing at the menu.

"It's a cool atmosphere with friendly people and good food," says Kearen Gattenio, who has been manager of Dogma Grill since it opened a little more than a year ago.

From Chilidogs to my all-time favorite, their signature Burrito Dog (two franks wrapped in a warm flour tortilla with all sorts of other goodies), Dogma marries the simple hotdog with a wide range of tasty flavors.

After choosing your dog's design, select a frank – either all beef, polish sausage, or 100 percent veggie. The veggie franks are actually better; take it from me – an all around carnivore. Cool down with some refreshing, homemade Mint Lemonade and pick a spot under an umbrella-shaded table.

It's a decent hike from FIU, but for a meal of this magnitude, you won't spend more than five or six bones and you'll never look at hotdogs the same way.

Live:

I/O, 30 NE 14th St.

There's no doubt that The Cure's highly anticipated Curiosa festival is the concert on everybody's hit list this

summer. The only problem is it's an hour and a half away, in West Palm Beach, tacking on even more money to an already steep ticket price.

Don't sweat the high costs of long distance amphitheater concerts and festivals when there's plenty in your own backyard – or at least downtown.

This month, popular hipster den I/O in downtown Miami will feature several exciting shows with artists and bands that have been stirring interest in the music community.

On July 22, there's a rock show you won't want to miss with Secret Machines and The Helio Sequence – two bands that are being proclaimed by many as the next big things in rock music.

Your wallet will thank you, with cover at a very affordable \$8 and fairly cheap drinks inside.

Evening:

The District, 35 NE 40 St.

Veterans of Poplife, an independent music and dance night, will remember the glory days of the old Piccadilly venue. The club is back as The District, the latest hot spot in Miami's Design District.

On Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, the restaurant becomes a late night lounge at 11 p.m. with DJ's spinning music and bartenders dealing drinks.

If you pop in on Thursday nights, you can catch DJ's spinning eclectic mixes of modern pop and rock.

The night will be akin to the popular Revolver dance night at Soho Lounge (just down the street), only minus the irritating scenester hype. When you tire of the inner restaurant and lounge, catch some fresh air in the outside patio. Each area features a different DJ to keep up a variety of moods.

With no cover charge and Thursday two-for-one drink specials, The District is quickly becoming favorable in the nightclub community.



CHEAP EATS & BEATS: Dogma Grill (above) serves a unique hotdog cuisine perfect for the summer time, and The Helio Sequence (below) will rock the I/O Lounge on the evening of July 22 for a paltry \$8. JOHN LOVELL / THE BEACON (ABOVE), COURTESY PHOTO (BELOW)

The list continues:

Food: Smoothie Lounge 1689 107th Ave.

Excellent smoothies with a wide variety of flavors, directly across the street from FIU. Medium-sized smoothie is a meal in itself. \$5 – 6.

Roberto's Taco Shop 8845 SW 107th Ave.

24-hour Mexican food (except on

Sundays), not only open later than Taco Bell, but tastier and more authentic. Don't miss out on their signature Horchata rice drink. \$5 – 8.

Live: Múm

Electronic ambiance from Iceland. Appearing at I/O on July 17 at 9 p.m. \$14 cover, 18 and up.

Rainer Maria & Engine Down

Solid indie music by two bands who know how to rock. Appearing at I/O on July 20 at 9 p.m. \$8 cover, 18 and up.

Evening: Purdy Lounge 1811 Purdy Ave

Laid-back alternative to SoBe with varied music and inexpensive drinks. 21 and up, open until 5a.m.

Liberals hold lock on leftist film documentaries

By CHRIS HEWITT
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The documentary boom couldn't have come at better or worse time for the November presidential election, depending on your candidate of choice.

A number of documentaries, most of them politically left-of-center, are heading into theaters. And, just as conservative radio programs haven't generated much liberal radio response, liberal documentaries don't seem to have led to a cinematic response from conservatives.

Leading the charge is Michael Moore, with "Fahrenheit 9/11," the anti-war, anti-George W. Bush film he says he made to affect the November presidential election. "Fahrenheit" earned \$23.9 million to become the top-grossing doc of all time in just one weekend of release.

"These are mind-blowing numbers," Moore told journalists. An informal poll of opening-weekend viewers in the Twin Cities suggested that most of them were sympathetic to Moore.

But the filmmaker cites the box office as proof his movie is influencing the national debate. "All of the predictions that the movie would only speak to the choir, would only be for those who don't like Bush, I don't think have turned out to be true."

"Fahrenheit" isn't the first documentary that takes issue with Dubya - 2002's "Horns and Halos" was largely concerned with uncovering the truth about Bush's alleged drug usage.

But it is the first movie specifically timed to, as Moore has said, change undecided voters to non-Bush voters.

Moore, who supported Ralph Nader in the 2000 election, has apparently not picked a candidate this time, but his Web site includes a link to www.NotBush.com.

Others in the wave of liberal documentaries include "The Corporation," which hammers Bush's support of big business (it opens July 9); "The Hunting of a President," which tracks what the movie describes as a right-wing media effort to get former President Bill Clinton impeached (July 30); "Control Room," the anti-war documentary about Arab news organization al-Jazeera (in theaters); "Tying the Knot," which argues in favor of same-sex marriage (no release date set); "Bush's Brain," a critical look at Bush adviser Karl Rove; and two John Kerry documentaries, including one about his service in Vietnam (no release date set).

Moore, presumably, is delighted about all of this.

He told www.indiewire.com, "If I had a dream years ago, it was that I wouldn't be alone (in making documentaries



THE AWFUL TRUTH: In just one weekend at the box office, Moore's anti-war, anti-George W. Bush, "Fahrenheit 9/11" became the top-grossing documentary of all time. COURTESY PHOTO

that advocate political change) and that other people would start doing this. It is really our moment."

What's unclear is how long the moment will last. "There's a worry that, after the election, these films may all be moot," said Eammon Bowles, president of Magnolia Pictures, which is releasing "Control Room."

"I'm really glad we're out ahead of the pack with 'Control Room,' because there are so many of these films, it's like Cinema Against Bush. But when November rolls around, who knows? Who knows what the political or social climate will be on any given day?"

As a key distributor of documentaries, Bowles has seen many of the upcoming films, not all of which are good. He believes their varying quality will determine how much of an impact they have on audiences and on the election.

Meanwhile, he said no filmmakers with conservative agendas have approached Magnolia about distributing their films. The sole conservative documentary on Bowles' radar is filmmaker Mike Wilson's "Michael Moore Hates America." (Wilson, who voted for Bush in 2000, considers himself a Libertarian.) But Bowles said, "He doesn't have any footage to show yet."

Why the shortage of conservative voices in nonfiction filmmaking?

Bowles has a guess: "I think maybe the independent film

audience, in general, leans more toward personal expression and liberalism, whereas the people listening to the radio might be more conservative."



DUMBFUNDED: Moore's documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" disapproves of decisions made by the George W. Bush administration. After being told "America is under attack" when the second plane hit the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, George W. Bush continued to read "My Pet Goat" in a Florida classroom for the next seven minutes. "Fahrenheit 9/11" joins a wave of liberal documentaries being released this election season. So far the only film to attack liberal thought is Mike Wilson's "Michael Moore hates America." COURTESY PHOTO



HEALTH NUTS: Ayinde Howell, a lifelong vegan, owns the vegan sandwich shop Hillside Quickies, in Seattle, Wash. COURTESY PHOTO

Hip-hop artists spread word on healthy diet styles

By LESLIE FULBRIGHT
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE - There are some hip-hop artists who don't drink Tanqueray and Alize and want no part of the late-night trips to the BK.

Take the socially conscious rap duo Dead Prez, whose song "Be Healthy" includes the lyrics: "I don't eat meat, no dairy, no sweets - only ripe vegetables, fresh fruit and whole wheat."

In recent years, hip-hop artists have started publicly denouncing the unhealthy diets some of their counterparts have long embraced. They are pushing the benefits of holistic health in the black community, where high blood pressure and cholesterol are common problems.

Singer Erykah Badu, an active promoter of the vegan lifestyle, has been known to stop by Seattle's Hillside Quickies Vegan Sandwich Shop, where the Howell family serves up Tempehstrami Subs and Macaroni and Yease to the tune of hip-hop, dance hall and reggae.

"We get a lot of artists that come through here," said Ayinde Howell, a 25-year-old vegan and local rapper/poet, "the ones who take care of their bodies."

The low-key vegan/soul-food cafe has hosted the likes of The Roots, Saul Williams, Black Anger, Blackalicious and the Lifesavas. Howell opened the business five years ago, inspired by his mother, who has prepared wholesale vegan foods for years.

Sister Afi, 29, came to help a couple years ago at Quickies, where she now handles all of the vegan desserts, including cookies, cakes, pies, bars and vegan soy cream.

"There has always been cooking going on in our family," Howell said, "so we may as well make money."

Seattle has strong vegan and hip-hop communities, and Howell is part of both. They don't often intersect.

"Hip-hop is largely black people and black people are not largely vegans," Howell said.

"With hip-hop, there is a little bit of machismo, so 'Save the Animals' is not the most popular slogan.

"But now that the big artists

are coming out, they are having some influence."

At the forefront is rap mogul and entrepreneur Russell Simmons, a strict vegan who is active in People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Simmons has, among other things, signed on to PETA's anti-fur ad in Women's Wear Daily, recorded a radio public service announcement promoting vegetarianism and participated in the PETA Celebrity Cookbook.

The late Notorious B.I.G., who famously indulged in "T-bone steak, cheese, eggs and Welch's grape" in his classic single, "Big Poppa" - and evidenced by his hefty frame - is probably rolling in his grave.

But the benefits of going veggie are taking root. A recently released DVD, "Holistic Wellness for the Hip-Hop Generation," speaks to young people about diet and health. Created by filmmaker Supa Nova Slom, the 110-minute documentary features appearances by artists Badu, rapper Common and Stic.man from Dead Prez.

Meanwhile, vegetarianism is gaining popularity not only in hip-hop but in black communities across the nation. An informal survey of black vegetarians on the Web site www.blackvegetarians.org reveals that the top three reasons given for eliminating meat are health (34 percent), ethical reasons (14 percent) and spiritual or religious reasons (12 percent).

Such conversions are changing the look of soul-food restaurants that are now trying to accommodate nonmeat eaters.

Vegans like Common, Outkast's Andre 3000 and Badu are spotlighting what could become a movement for young people.

Howell hopes hip-hop artists can deliver that message to their listeners.

As the youngest of three, Howell says his parents' "hippie stuff" started with him. He was born and raised a Rastafarian in Tacoma, Wash., but still has roots and relatives in the South.

Though his parents are heavily involved in the religion, which promotes living naturally and not eating animals, Howell says it's not easy telling his Southern relatives that he doesn't want any chicken or ribs.

Construction affects Biscayne campus

By PAUL GRECO
Profile Editor

The main focus of development for FIU is the construction of the new \$14 million plus Marine Biology facility located on the Biscayne Campus. Regulated by Centex Rooney Construction, the project was put in motion June 9, 2004. This 57,000 square foot advanced laboratory is scheduled to be completed August of 2005.

"It will be a more modern facility," said George Parrack, superintendent with Centex Rooney. "Compared to the old facility, which was much smaller and rather primitive, the new facility will have much more space to work, and will receive state-of-the-art science equipment."

FIU began planning the facility three years ago as part of a plan to offer more science courses to "take care of the needs of Miami," said Raul Moncarz, FIU's BBC Vice Provost and Chief Operating Executive Officer. "I want the campus to become an engine for growth in North



LOOKING OVER HIS HANDIWORK: Marko Gatica, project manager with Centex Rooney, points towards the construction process at the ground work of the soon to be Marine Biology facility at the Biscayne campus. **PAUL GRECO/SPECTRUM**

Miami-Dade. I'd like to see the Biscayne campus as a top urban research university established separate from the South campus."

Additional structures included in the Marine Biology lab are 18 feet long by 6 feet high aquariums in every classroom and a shallow

wet lab on the ground floor. The main structure is a three stories high, rectangular building connected on the second floor to a cylindrical facility 72 feet in diameter and also three stories high.

Talk of filling in the lake adjacent to the construction project

has been circling the campus. According to project manager Marko Gatica, the lake is going to be expanded one-third and all the removed trees will be replaced mostly with Sable palms.

"What we've dug up is mostly mangrove roots," Gatica said. "The area for the Marine Biology facility was once an organic dump site."

Funding for the project is tight. "The progress is great but we have no private funding," Moncarz said. "Who ever will give us the funding for the Marine Biology facility would get their name on the building. We've been trying to find an organization to fund us but so far we've had no luck."

After six months of negotiation, a contract of \$10,814,000 was settled with Centex Rooney. Due to the shift in the United States economy it is more beneficial for the U.S. to export goods, and with China eating up supplies as a result of a boom in development, concrete and construction materials have become expensive items.

Continued on pg. 4

SGA cuts funding for FIU radio station

By SARA EATON
Senior Layout Editor
and JESSICA NOEL
Page Editor

"You are now listening to WRGP Homestead-Miami!" This is what listeners of the FIU radio station, WRGP, can hear in the morning at 11:30 a.m. weekdays when tuned into FM 88.1 in South Dade. Surprisingly, you will not hear the underground jams of 88.1 blasting from the dorm rooms of the FIU campus residents, simply because there is no signal that is able to cover either the north or south campuses of FIU.

Partly because of these signal problems, the Student Government Association (SGA) has cut WRGP's budget for 2004-2005.

"I think it's up to the students to get a signal. I'm very positive about the radio station and I would very much like to have the station reach our campuses," said Vice Provost and Chief Operating Executive Officer, Raul Moncarz.

The SGA cut the radio's budget from \$123,000 to \$98,000 because of WRGP's signal problems and because SGA claims that WRGP's line item budget prospective was lacking detail.

"We couldn't tell what the radio was spending the money on and

where the money was going. And we weren't going to continue funding the same amount for a radio station that was virtually never heard," said the Controller for SGA, Micah Mintz. "It was impossible to hear and it isn't that good."

In addition to the lack of detail in the line item budget prospective, the SGA decided that they would no longer heed promises made by WRGP to get a signal that would reach the FIU campuses. The SGA is very much aware that the radio station cannot get a translator to transmit a signal to the FIU campuses because of the FCC, which is a government agency

responsible for the transmission of data through radio and television.

"From what I understand, the FCC will not allow the radio station to get a transmitter," says Mintz.

According to Messod Bendayan, the FCC denied WRGP's request for a transmitter because it does not allow transmitters in a residential area and FIU is a residential area. Despite several calls the FCC was not available to comment.

"We were tired of hearing that they were going to broadcast to more people when they never did," Mintz said.

Bendayan responded by saying, "When they give you

Continued on pg. 4

Custodian Blanca Gonzalez fights to free her son

By ILEANA MORALES
Staff Writer

Freedom of speech -- sometimes Americans forget it is a gift, when in places like Cuba, people only dream about it. Blanca González, an FIU custodian, knows this on a personal level. Her son, Normando Hernández, is a journalist in Cuba who is imprisoned for his writing.

Gonzalez has not been able to speak to her son since he and roughly 75 other journalists were beaten and arrested in March of 2003. They were driven to their respective prisons in small cars on plastic seats, barely able to move. Each of those journalists' prison terms range from 14 to 27 years. Hernandez's sentence is 25 years.

The 34-year-old began working as a journalist in 1994. He worked with

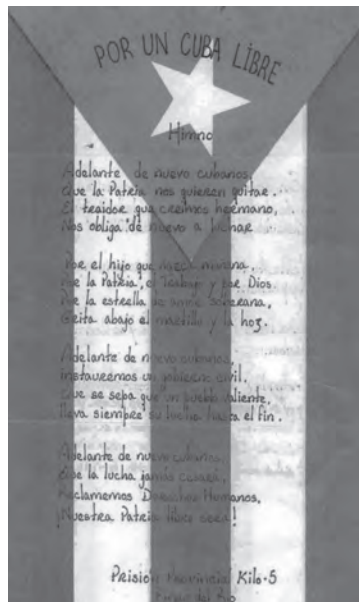
M.A.R. por Cuba: Madres y Mujeres Anti-Repression por Cuba (Mothers and Women for Anti-Repression of Cuba), Lux (a magazine for Cuban workers), and other publications. He has written over a hundred articles.

However, he never graduated from college. The Cuban government didn't allow it. According to González, the government takes notice of ideas against it and removes the problem. The last article Hernandez wrote before being imprisoned was "Si reclamo, me torturan" (If I speak up, they'll torture me).

"Cuba is horrible," said Mrs. González. "I personally know many other people in the same situation."

Her son is still in Boniatico prison in the province of Santiago. Hernández and five other journalists are in isolation cells there.

According to Cubanet, a Cuban news organization, journal-



ANY WAY SHE CAN: Blanca Gonzalez circulates this poem written by her son, Normando Hernández, in hopes that others will aid his release from a Cuban prison. **Submitted by Blanca Gonzalez**

ist and prisoner Manuel Vásquez said, "It's one in the morning and there is no one who can sleep with so much heat and mosquitoes".

They talk to each other yelling across cells. When the guards don't like the content of their conversations they scream and curse at them.

Contact with the prisoners is extremely difficult. Hernández said the guards pretend they are deaf when he calls for them, and at the time he said he hadn't had lunch for nearly a week. Every day he says they get soup and corn, but no one can stand it.

Through a telephone interview, (the government has controlled the Internet), on June 1, 2004 it was confirmed that Hernández had been on a hunger strike for 25 days. His wife said he is very thin.

"Journalism can be a wonderful career," said González, 55. "But in Cuba you just can't pursue it."

Inside:



Kovens' spiritual center
Page 2



Fitness center pumped up



Yasumicon strikes back
Page 3



Youngsters' summer prowl



Golden Star auditions
Page 4

Yasumicon karate chops back

By **PAMELA CASTRO**
Senior Layout Editor

Anything Goes Anime (AGA) is trying its hand once more on Yasumicon - a fun-filled convention for lovers of anime and all things East Asian - August 14th through the 15th.

Yasumicon premiered its Japanese animation event on July 26th, 2003, and AGA aims to top past successes.

"Before the con [convention] started, I only expected about 500 people to show up at most," AGA member Joel Creme said in his interview with John Lovell, The Beacon's managing editor, for a past story about the club.

As stated in Lovell's article, Yasumicon drew a crowd of 1,200 anime fans from the South Florida area, some flamboyantly dressed as their favorite anime characters, known as cosplayers. Others just casually dressed in a t-shirt and jeans to enjoy the convention's events. This year, AGA officers are expecting perhaps double last year's attendance.

"If they [the coordinators behind some events] confirm [their appearance at the convention], we'll have dealers [sellers] and events from as far away as New York," said Alexander Perez, Secretary

for Anything Goes Anime.

Many events from last year - the Web Comics Panel, the Mecha Panel, AMV (Anime Music Videos) contest, Cosplay (skits that are acted out by fans dressed as anime characters) contest,



GO NARUTO GO: Cosplayers show off their self-made anime costumes and warm up for the day's events at last year's convention. **COURTESY PHOTO**

Costume contest, a Sushi demonstration, and Martial Arts demonstrations by the FIU Aikido and Judo teams - are all scheduled to return in August. New events including a Japanese culture panel and a live J-Rock band concert are scheduled to appear.

Asuka Haraguchi, instructor of Japanese in the Modern Languages Department and faculty adviser for the Asian Student Union club,

Anything Goes Anime club, and the Kendo club, is also the adviser for the event and one of the sushi chefs for Yasumicon 2004. Professor Haraguchi, along with her colleague Sekita, is scheduled to show convention-goers how to make sushi. Those who attend also get to try some of their delicious delicacies.

Known for their studies abroad in Japan, China, and other parts of Asia, The Institute for Asian Studies is hosting Yasumicon for a second year in a row.

"It is a good opportunity to bring all of the [Oriental] clubs together and to show others what the Institute for Asian Studies is all about," said Haraguchi.

Yasumicon will take place at the Graham Center Ballrooms at the FIU University Park Campus (South Campus). It will start around 10 am on Saturday. Sunday is still in the planning stages.

For more information:

Anything Goes Anime Club

Internet: <http://www.fiu.edu/~aganime>
Email: AGAnime@fiu.edu

Yasumicon's Yahoo! Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/YasumiCon>

North Campus library upgrades technology

By **JENNI SKLAR**

Photo Editor

"Imagine being able to go to a library, and do everything!" said Ms. Antonie Downs, library executive associate di-

rector, as she excitedly leaned over her desk to explain what's been happening at the media center at the

FIU Biscayne Bay Campus.

Though the school has had some difficulty funding this project, the North Campus has recently received twelve new computers to enhance of the Library's media center. The new computers and the hi-tech hardware and software that are being installed will allow FIU students to go above and beyond what is required. The hardware and software will give students many new opportunities to advance their studies and allow them to be involved in a more professional atmosphere with more options.

The new computers are equipped with a scanner, CDRW Drive, Zip Drive, and DVD Drive, along with soft-

ware such as Adobe Photoshop 7.0, Dreamweaver MX and Flash MX. Due to the software quality and computer speed, a password security system will be enforced. Only FIU students will have access in order to prevent possible

misuse of the equipment.

One of the project's goals is to have specialized FIU student staff

available to assist those who are not familiar with the new programs and computers.

According to library techie Voltaire Lysius, the computers should be installed and running by the end of June or early July. When asked what sort of outcome he predicted, he chuckled and said "I think that this addition to our library will make it better, but also a little more complicated to manage. I see good things, but also possible problems."

Ms. Downs is looking forward to seeing people use the labs. "The ultimate goal of this project is to teach the students something so that they can go out into the world and do good things," she said with a smile.

Kovens Center hosts innovative church

By **ELIZABETH PROCHET**

Copy and Layout Editor

It is a bit unusual to find a church discreetly nestled in a well-known campus building. What is even more unusual to learn is that the students who actually attend the university are unaware of the church's existence. And yet, A Place Called Hope (yes, a church), not having a home of its own, took the road less traveled by and decided to establish itself in The Roz and Cal Kovens Conference Center on F.I.U.'s Biscayne Bay Campus.

Perhaps one reason the church remains almost anonymous is because of the stereotypes surrounding churches.

When the idea of 'church people' is mentioned, one might



DAD: Bishop W. Duane Swilley
COURTESY PHOTO

imagine a big steeple church with hysterical individuals throwing their arms in the air while strange

noises emanate from their mouths, and, most importantly, trays are passed down the aisles for collection. This may be why, for the most part, there aren't masses of Miami-ians running to their nearest place of worship ready to take out a new lease on life.

It is for this reason, among others, that Bishop W. Duane Swilley and his wife of 29

"Hope is a multi-cultural church with representation from many different nations."

Pastor "Sunny" Swilley
A Place Called Hope

years, Pastor Deborah "Sunny" Swilley, packed up their three children, Joshua, Joan and Esther, and moved from their established life in Atlanta, Georgia to further his vision of a better Miami.

The church's motto- "At A Place Called Hope we're more than a church we are a ... Family!" fits Bishop Swilley's revelation.

Swilley, also known as 'Bishop' or 'Dad' to the youth of the congregation, complet-

ed his business degree from Georgia Tech University in 1975 and founded his own company renovating Victorian houses. He also worked for three years as an entrepreneur with Imperial Group Limited, a company which owns banks, hotels and restaurants.

Early during his career, Swilley founded ALHPA, the largest youth organization in America at the time. ALPHA's membership once numbered over 25,000 in the Atlanta area. The group used the arts, music, dancing, drama and humor to inspire youth towards a more successful lifestyles. Swilley and other leaders at A Place Called Hope want to rekindle that same "youth explosion" in Miami.

"Hope is a multi-cultural church with representation from many different nations. Its driving focus is to reach the youth culture of South Florida as well as the community at large with a message of faith and restoration," said Pastor "Sunny" Swilley, first lady of A Place Called Hope.

In its short eight years in South Florida Hope has accomplished its vision in several ways.

Among these accomplish-



BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE: About 90 young people from the community join The Revolution tour every summer. **COURTESY PHOTO**

ments are putting on original productions orchestrated and performed by the youth of the church, not just in Miami, but also live, televised performances all along the East coast.

Another success is the diverse and multicultural pastors who better serve the congregation due to their backgrounds.

The church conducts three services every Sunday, including a communion service held in the early mornings. Hope even has Jewish representation through Rabbi Allen Kurzweil, who occasionally teaches about the tradition and history of Jewish culture.

Hope is in the process of opening a center called The H.I.L.L (Hope Institute of Life

Long Learning) where ministries and leaders in the church can develop their leadership skills. There are also beginners classes for 'baby Christians', where new members can develop and nurture their spiritual lives.

A motivational book by the Bishop, *The Dream Principle*, is in the works for release this summer. It is about following your dreams,

"At A Place Called Hope our vision is to reach the children and youth of Miami and develop them into champions and revolutionaries," said Pastor "Sunny" Swilley. "We also want to reach our community any way that we can. The greatest worship in the form of drama, music and dance."

Athletes endure off-season training

By **CHRIS TALBOTT**
Page Editor

Many students sleep in late, relax, and hang out at the beach during the summer. However, there are a few exceptions, the athletes who are devoted to their sport and are staying in top physical condition even during the off-season.

The most common problem associated with working out and training is lack of dedication and devotion. Many athletes have the time to work out. They are just not willing to give up their free time to do so. That's not the case with some of FIU's athletes.

"I'm in here [the training facility] four times a week, since I'm only taking one class this semester. When I'm here I run, swim and lift weights to make sure I'm at the top of my game," said golf team member Jessica Salazar, who is a junior.

"One advantage to off-season training is that students take fewer classes than in the fall so they have more time

on their hands," said head strength and conditioning coach Lu Deneen.

All athletes have something that they can improve in themselves, but deciding what that is often proves to be a difficult task.

"Summer for us is a break from the mental strains and anguishes of competition. Yet, during the summer, athletes are still continuing to stay in top physical shape."

Steven Rubin

Head Coach, men's and women's track and field and cross country.

"There is no one main thing we work on. Some athletes need to be nutrition conscious, while others need to work on strength, conditioning or speed," said Deneen.

Since they have different areas to develop and different team workouts, athletes have specific workouts designed by the strength and conditioning

staff to help them improve their abilities.

"We recommend a workout routine as far as weightlifting and such, but beyond that, athletes pretty much train and work out on their own," said Steven Rubin, head coach of men and women's track and field and cross country.

Another advantage to off-season training is that the athletes don't have to worry about having practice the next day. Therefore, they can endure much more strenuous workout sessions and enjoy the full effect of that workout.

"Summer for us is a break from the mental strains and anguishes of competition. Yet, during the summer, athletes are still continuing to stay in top physical shape," said Rubin.

"The key to any training is consistency. Consistency to me is the sign of progress. One workout isn't going to help you get better," said Iris Gonzalez, health teacher and strength and conditioning coach.

Kids enjoy summer swim/sports camp

By **BARRY KAMINSKY**
Page Editor

AND **JENNI SKLAR**
Photo Editor

Splash! Splash! But these kids aren't taking a bath. Each weekday during the summer, swarms of little bright eyed and excited children flock to the Biscayne Bay campus to enjoy a fun-filled day of activities at the FIU All Day Swim/Sports camp. From 9am to 4pm, children from ages four and up have the opportunity to partake in activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, basketball and tennis as well as a variety of field games.

Though there are many activities, the swimming pool is a source of constant entertainment and exercise. Throughout the week, the student camp counselors and lifeguards provided with a summer job or volunteer hours teach novice swimmers the fundamentals of water fun and safety. The older, avid learners practice the four basic swim strokes: freestyle, butterfly, breast and back strokes. In addition, the counselors explain the basics of training for competitive swim meets.

For the more adventurous, kids ages 10 and up participate

in a Survivor Camp which combines kayaking in the scenic Oleta State Park and practicing survival skills.

"This camp is awesome. Kayaking is my favorite activity here," said Menelik Dalley, one of the eager and enthusi-



SWIMMING FIRST AID: Counselor Danielle Wiedman teaches Mike Hasyn how to swim. **JENNI SKLAR/SPECTRUM**

astic children who was preparing to venture out in a kayak with his group.

Though the focus of this camp is on aquatic activities, the kids are not restricted to water sports. Others prefer to release their energy by participating in basketball, tennis, softball, or using the fitness center. The younger children have the option of expanding their creative minds through

arts and crafts or indoor games.

When the children are not busy exercising and having a great time on campus they are taking fieldtrips around Miami.

"Some of the activities of

campus include visiting the John Pennekamp State Park, the IMAX Movie Theater, the bowling alley, and even Rapids Water Park," said Saouda Hosein, the camp organizer and director.

"I think this camp is a great thing for the children. I enjoy it and I know they do too. That's why I have come back for the past six years," said camp counselor Elaine Cardenas.

New fitness center scheduled for BBC

By **ANTHONY HOLMES**
Copy Editor

Calling all Panthers, the time has come for you to get in shape! The BBC (Biscayne Bay Campus) has a new and improved fitness center coming your way. The fitness center will encourage students to enjoy its benefits and develop a healthier lifestyle.

"I think it is a great idea to build a new fitness center," said

Vladimir

Jeune, student.

"A fitness center helps students relieve stress and also gives us something to do after class."

The new center will be located behind the Wolfe

Center and will have a direct entrance into the pool. In addition to a pool entrance, the fitness center will be loaded with other features. For example, the BBC center will include both a men's and women's lockerroom and an aerobics room.

There will be Aerobics classes available which will be exciting, stimulating and help you burn those calories. The aerobics studio is anticipated to be a "hit" because, in addition to aerobics, the it will also host boxing.

The fitness center will also include new state of the art body machines, including the Body Master, a variety of treadmills and bicycles. Of course no fitness center is complete without weightlifting. The center will have an assortment of machines, including bench press, to help improve your muscular strength and endurance.

Besides enjoying its great features, students will maintain good nutrition and health with the help of the new center. "The center is important to the campus because just like the school educates the mind, the center's purpose is to educate the body," said Fred Reed, a representative of the BBC Fitness Center.

The fitness center is a 'lifesaver', because in today's society millions of people have been affected by cardio-respiratory diseases. Studies

done by the Center for Disease Control have shown that over 4 million Americans have cerebrovascular disease, which is a major form of stroke. In addition, 50 million Americans have been diagnosed with high blood pressure (hypertension), which is referred to as 'the silent killer.'

Additional studies have shown that since the 1990's the risk for developing these diseases is greater for African-

American than whites and Hispanics.

Men are more likely than women to be diagnosed with hypertension or have strokes and heart attacks.

Physical inactivity and obesity

are huge factors for cardio-respiratory diseases and one of the ways to prevent those diseases is exercise.

The old fitness center will remain open while the new one is completed. It is located on the third floor in the Wolfe Center above the Food Court. It is very similar to the soon to be BBC fitness center, but not quite.

"The fitness center on the third floor is not a real fitness center," said a staff member for the recreation department. "The new center is going to be bigger, more spacious and have an aerobics studio, which the other one doesn't have."

It is uncertain what will happen to the old fitness center once the new center is built. Until then, students can get their money's worth, because tuition helps fund the fitness center.

Construction begins on the new center at the end of July. If everything goes well, the fitness center will be open as early as December 2005.

Everyone is welcome to join in on the fun, though. Students are not the only people who can use the BBC Center. Faculty and staff can also work out for just \$35 a semester, and members of the community can also work out by purchasing a pass from the front desk.



FOCUSED INTENSITY: Fitness center enthusiast works the curl bar. **ELIZABETH PROCHET/SPECTRUM**

Radio, continued from pg. 1
five or ten minutes to talk during deliberations, it's not enough time to tell them exactly what the problem is. If we had more time then we would have been able to say exactly what we needed."

But despite the difficulties that the FCC brought WRGP, the radio station still made another desperate attempt to grace the ears of FIU resident students by increasing their

watt power from 160 to 210. But Miami International Airport (MIA) was afraid

"It was impossible to hear and it isn't that good," said the Controller for SGA, Micah Mintz."

WRGP would interfere with air traffic control towers. NBC6 was also afraid that

giving the station more power would interfere with their broadcasting. The FCC denied WRGP more power, thus leaving them with the original power of 160 watts.

WRGP hopes that this 15-year battle to obtain a signal will reach all the FIU campuses will be over within the next two years.

"It behooves us. If we have [a department of] mass communications here, then

why isn't the radio station here," asked Moncarz.

Broadcasting since 1988 on AM frequency 540 for approximately 11 years, WRGP first applied for its signal with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which is a government agency responsible for the transmission of data through radio and television, the station received just four watts of power. "Just to let you know

exactly how much power that is, well let's just say, your toaster at home probably gets more power than what we got", says current WRGP General Manager Messod Bendayan.

WRGP currently runs on 160 watts of power and is now known as "Radiate 88". Along with this catchy name, WRGP also found a new place on your dial, becoming an FM station in the fall of '99, at frequency 88.1.

FIJI, The Smart Fraternity

By TAWNA DANGER
Staff Writer

The Phi Gamma Deltas are nothing like the stereotypical fraternity. With high standards and exceptionally prominent G.P.A.'s, they don't trash houses, haze, or drink until the sun comes home. The young men that join this fraternity are the elite of their school and make sure everyone knows it. The Phi Gamma Delta's attend almost all school functions, bringing their excellence to show off to the rest of the student body.

Phi Gamma Delta, also known as FIJI, has a colony on the South campus at FIU. The colony is based on five righteous values, friendship, knowledge, service, morality, and excellence. Many of the brothers explain how fraternity like FIJI has impacted their lives by building speaking skills, giving back to the community, and educating young men of the power of responsibility.

Joining a fraternity is a commitment. With Greek week, banquets, many social functions, and obligations, time is

always a factor. "It is hard to manage family, friends, a fraternity, school, and a job," says Daniel Ruiz, a brother of FIJI. "But if my fraternity taught me anything, they taught me how to manage time efficiently."

There are many mandatory qualifications to hold and rituals to know before young men can enter FIJI. For example, they must have a G.P.A. of 2.5 or better and pay dues of \$450 twice a year. If you happen to be an exceptional student with a 3.0 G.P.A. under your belt, FIJI will award you a scholarship of \$250. The rituals are kept top secret. Every brother is supposed to take them to the grave without slipping a word.

FIJI is the only fraternity in FIU that has a house. The house was built approximately three years ago with a \$2 million budget. There are 16 rooms, two boys per room, with one handicapped room available. The best part of the house is that the money donated to build the house was given by a former fraternity brother. The brother was visiting and asked how things were going. One brother jokingly suggested the idea of building a house. One thing led to another and a

check was written to start the project.

Brothers from the fraternity explain that to get the true experience of college and a real feeling of brotherhood, it is important to live in the house. Living on campus helps to get the brothers involved in school activities and form a bond only roommates can acquire.

The house has distinct and clear rules that every housemate is made aware of before stepping into their new home. For example, there are no drugs or alcoholic beverages permitted on house grounds, cleanliness is mandatory, and guests must follow all rules that apply to house members, and much more.

Since FIJI has been so successful for the past three years, Pi Kappa Alpha, also known as "Pike," has begun creating their own house.

FIJI is going to become the first fraternity on the FIU campus that transfers from a colony to a chapter. On July 10, banquets will be held in the honor of the brothers of the FIJI frat at FIU becoming founding fathers.

Golden Star dance squad holds auditions

By BARBARA GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

It's time to dust off your dance moves and whip yourself back into shape for the auditions for the Golden Stars Dance Squad. They'll be held on July 22, 2004 in WUC155. The squad performs hip-hop, jazz, soca, reggae, salsa and gyrating dance routines.

Senior Mfon Essiet, has been captain and director for three years. Essiet is a graduate and former dancer from Northwestern High school. She has been dancing for twelve years.

"We enjoy what we do," Essiet said. "My freshman year, as bad as I wanted to, I couldn't dance because I was injured. That year [2001] the dance squad got cancelled because of the lack of involvement on campus. I trained my body and pushed myself to dance again the way I did before. When I returned my sophomore year I took charge and started the

dance squad over again." Essiet expects more than 50 students to audition.

Some of the squad's more memorable performances are the SPC Comedy Show, MCF Business and Health Fair, Miss Black and Gold Pageant,

"When I returned my sophomore year I took charge and started the dance squad over again." Essiet said.

Miami Dade Police Department black history celebration and Moonlight Madness.

In addition, they perform at pep rallies and FIU basketball games.

With only 30 spots to fill the next semester, Essiet is looking for the top 20 female and 10 male dancers to shape the squad.

It won't be all fresh faces dancing this year.

Sophomores Marsha Ambriose and Eminisha Lalanne, two former Golden Stars will be returning to the auditions this year.

Ambriose is a graduate and former dancer from Blanche Ely Senior High. The 17-year-old has been dancing for three years. Time will be an uphill battle for Ambriose since she has school and finding a job as her main priorities.

Still she is a strong advocate of people taking a shot at making the team. "Don't be afraid to come out to the auditions," Ambriose said.

The other returning veteran senior Ekandem Essiet, is one of the few male dancers on the squad. He also serves as a choreographer.

Ekandem has been dancing for 11 years and is the brother of Mfon Essiet. He plans to return to the squad next semester.

Some final advice for the potential dancers: "Be yourself if you come out to audition. It's harmless and a great place to make friends," Abriose said.

Marine, continued from pg. 1

The project will cost construction management an additional \$114,000 just for concrete. FIU is not liable for the additional payments, because of the contract it ne-

Munisport toxic waste dump which will be the 190-acre Biscayne Landings development. The development is located east of Biscayne Boulevard and just



VISION OF THE FUTURE: Scale model of the marine biology facility after completion in 2004. [FIU WEBSITE](#)

gotiated. The contract puts the company in charge of the entire project, including hiring sub-contractors for construction of any additional structures that do not fall under the company's expertise.

Extensive development around the Biscayne campus will urbanize this once remote area which was predominantly mangrove swamps and dump sites.

South of 15th street and FIU.

A new public elementary school will also be built on Biscayne Boulevard, with a charter school nearby.

"The traffic will definitely become an issue soon," Moncarz said. "We used to have the area all to ourselves and there is only one road connecting us." No plans for an additional road have been announced.

SPECTRUM

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OPINION

Alejandra Diaz Editor In Chief • John Lovell Managing Editor • Felicidad Garcia Opinion Editor

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you think keeps many students from voting?

- I think most students do vote.
- Students often feel their vote doesn't count, that's why many aren't even registered to vote.
- A lot of students don't vote because they're unaware of the issues and have "more important things to do" than find them out.
- They're still trying to cure their weekend hangover.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER



Geraldine Williams: The 68-year-old cleaning lady of the University of Massachusetts-Lowell hit the second largest jackpot in North America, a whopping \$249 million in the Mega Millions lottery.

LOSER



The New York Post: The esteemed publication erroneously sent out their recent Monday edition proclaiming Dick Gephardt as John Kerry's pick for running mate in the upcoming presidential election.

QUOTEABLES

"This is the next step in a long hard path."

– **FIU President Modesto A. Maidique**, at the School of Medicine Initiative meeting recently, referring to the university's submission of the official proposal to the Florida Board of Governors.

"No, it means stupid, dirty girl."

– **Richard Riordan**, former Republican mayor of Los Angeles, correcting a 9-year-old who volunteered the meaning of her name.

"It's unfortunate when terrible situations like this occur and of course, we are disappointed and concerned."

– **Rick Mello**, director of Intercollegiate Athletics, regarding recent criminal charges against three football players.

"We're going to take things away from you on behalf of the common good."

– **Hillary Clinton**, at a conference with wealthy supporters, referring to changes to the Bush Administration tax cuts should the Democrats win the upcoming election.

"I could have made it an easy schedule but I like challenges."

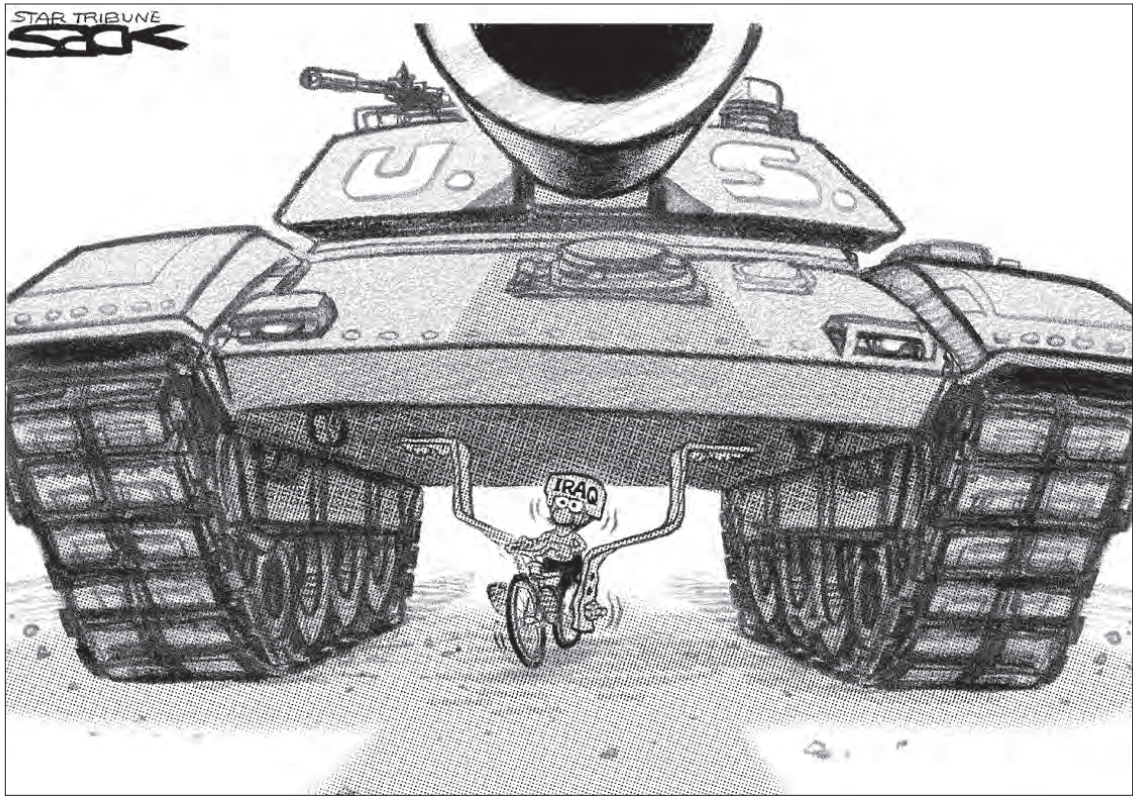
– **Everton Edwards**, head coach for FIU Women's Soccer, on the new season's match-ups.

"Let freedom reign!"

– **President George W. Bush**, upon receiving notice of official

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at the University Park campus, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beacon@fiu.edu. Letters must include the writer's full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. If brought in to an office, a legitimate ID may be accepted instead of a phone number. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 400 words.



Why Bush may win next election

By **ROMINA GARBER**
Knight Ridder Tribune

I was furiously typing my paper on Hamlet as my friends were sitting around my common room when the discussion on politics turned to the upcoming presidential election.

The question on the table was what way college students would vote. Are more college students supporting Bush? Are more of us becoming Republicans?

Fortunately, my best friend Leslie is in the Institute of Politics here at Harvard, and her committee has just finalized a national survey of college students' political inclinations and how we are likely to vote.

According to the survey, 62 percent of us will be heading to the polls in November, and right now most of us will be voting for Kerry. In the last survey in the fall, most of us supported Bush. Why the change?

Our support for the war in Iraq has dropped from 58 percent six months ago to 49 percent, and Bush's approval rating fell from 61 percent to 47 percent. We also support legalizing gay marriage, which Bush strongly opposes.

"There's been a reaction to Bush's policies and so support for Bush has gone significantly down. The feeling now is anti-

Bush, but that doesn't necessarily make it pro-Kerry. Students are reporting they would vote for Kerry just because they are now anti-Bush," Leslie said.

"The switch is from being actively pro-Bush to being actively anti-Bush ... now we're the same as the rest of the population," she added.

It also turns out we are a very moral generation. Most of us would not vote for a candidate who cheated on his wife, tax returns or resume. It's interesting to com-

pare those convictions to a survey of the total population (not just youth) that shows that less than half care if a candidate has cheated in these areas.

We also are more religious than previous generations, but a majority of us would still vote for a candidate who does not believe in God.

So what does this say about us? Well, for one we're not apathetic. We realize how important it is to elect the government we want.

Two-thirds of us think we will have a hard time finding employment after graduating so we are aching for an administration that

we can trust with our futures. These results make for a very idealistic youth.

Back to the conversation my friends were having. They did not sound very optimistic about Bush and the integrity of his administration.

"I bet you they find Osama in September," one of my roommates said.

"It also turns out we are a very moral generation. Most of us would not vote for a candidate who cheated on his wife, tax returns or resume."

"Eh, maybe that's not close enough to elections - probably October," chimed in another friend.

There problem, as they see it, is that Bush is making it seem like the terrorists are the source of all of our problems, and that once bin Laden is caught, everything will be perfect.

While most of us are informed enough to know that this is far from the truth, there is a large part of the population that will be swayed to believe this in September, when this becomes the Republican platform.

Whatever happens, it's good to know that we care and that we will be casting our vote with the rest of the country. Maybe we can give these elections a dose of morality.

Phew! [FIU] philanthropists

By Luis Nin

Next time you ask someone who's majoring in Pre-Med why they chose their major

They'll probably say

Not only is it an interesting field. But, I get to help people!



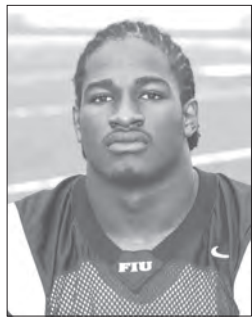
What they really mean is...

Bling! Bling!





BAKER



DEMERRITT



ARNOLD

Players face felony charges as serious allegations are investigated

FOOTBALL, from page 1

at Building K. Located at University Park apartments, Building K is closed to students for the summer, according to the FIU housing department.

Upon arrival, the two students parked southbound of Building K. Within five minutes, five black males approached them wearing bandanas to conceal their identity.

The driver was ordered at gunpoint to get out of the car twice by one of the subjects.

Thinking the pointed gun was a joke, the driver pushed the firearm away from the subject. At this point, the subject struck the driver on the mouth with a closed fist.

According to the report, after the produced gun and fist to the mouth, the student realized the subjects were serious and accelerated the vehicle.

As they sped off, Baker allegedly fired at the vehicle, shattering the rear left window and penetrating the driver's headrest.

The driver was not hurt, but the passenger was nearly hit with the bullet, which had penetrated from the driver's headrest.

"It's unfortunate when terrible situations like this occur and of course, we are disappointed and concerned," said

Rick Mello, director of Intercollegiate Athletics. "These are serious allegations and after due process is served, the matter will be dealt with appropriately and in accordance with university policy. We will cooperate fully with any and all police investigations."

In the meantime, according to Mello, all three of these young men have been suspended indefinitely from the football team. According to a newsletter sent to the university community by FIU President Modesto A. Maidique, the university has issued a no trespass warrant to the three football players involved in the incident.

FIU police has no information regarding the other two suspects who are still at large.

According to the arrest report, the incident was caused by a foiled drug deal involving a half-ounce of marijuana. The guns involved in the attack were taken from DeMerritt's car when FIU police arrested him.

The three football players were denied bond in their first court appearance on July 5 and are currently locked up in a Miami-Dade County jail. Their next hearing is set for July 26.

At press time, both of the victims declined comment.

Former Golden Panther voted into All-Star team



BACK, BACK, BACK: Mike Lowell of the Florida Marlins, formerly a Golden Panther was elected to join the 2004 All-Star Team. COURTESY PHOTO

Beacon Staff Report

FIU Alumni and former Golden Panther baseball player, Mike Lowell was selected to represent the National League in the 2004 All Star Game.

This will be his third year representing the Florida Marlins. His current stats stand at 51 runs, 96 hits, 19 homeruns, and 52 R.B.I.'s.

Lowell's .353 batting average ranks fifth all-time the history of FIU. Earlier this year, his number, 15, was the first Golden Panther jersey retired.

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SPORTS

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THE BEACON

www.beaconnewspaper.com

Womens soccer to kick off against rival UCF

Everton picks challenging schedule for 2004 season

By **NATALIE SABIA**
Staff Writer

Heading into their 20th season, the Florida International University's women's soccer program will enter into one of their most challenging schedules in history.

Consisting of a pair of conference champions and five NCAA teams, FIU's schedule includes University of Central Florida, from the Atlantic Sun; Denver, from the Sun Belt, Texas, Florida State and Florida.

The Golden Panthers will return with 13 letter winners from last year, including seven starters. "I could have made it an easy schedule, but I like challenges," said Head Coach Everton Edwards.

Several new forwards, who could even possibly be new starters, consist of women from various cities and states.

Newcomers Chanelle Crosby and Whitney Rezendes, who are both from the same high school in Littleton, Colo. are just a few of the fresh faces who will appear on the field.

Crosby spent two previous years at Northern Illinois, where she was the second-leading scorer her freshman year and played in all 18 contests as a sophomore.

Another newcomer, a local one, is freshman Sofia Frayle, who was one of the

top prep players throughout the Miami area. After scoring 107 career goals, along with 63 assists, she was named All-Dade 6A Girls Soccer Player of the Year.

Among the midfielders, FIU welcomes Julie Mushill, Francesca Chong and Andrea Tarasivk to the team this year. As her high school's leading scorer with 60 career goals and 33 assists, Mushill was named First-Team All-State recognition and was named twice all-conference.

Chong was also in the spotlight as a two-time All Dade selection at Felix Varela High School.

The Golden Panthers are secure among their defenders, after the return of five letter winners, along with four talented newcomers. Maya Ozery, who is among the Israeli National Team, is just one of five players from the National Team venturing to the U.S. to compete on the collegiate level.

Kristin Hurst, Whitney Perez and sophomore transfer Yaneash Donaldson are also joining FIU as defenders. Hurst was selected first-team All-State as a senior in high school and was recognized as team MVP twice. Perez was named

Sun-Sentinel Player of the Year for Class 6A-5A and a four-time All-Area and All-Conference. Donaldson, who is transferring from Clemson, has competed with several successful teams including high school and college.

After a sad ending throughout the last two seasons, FIU will turn their attention towards a major goal they need to focus on: offense. In the last seconds of a game when goals were desperately needed, the Golden Panthers were unable to pull through. "If you get competition within, then you get competition out too," said Edwards.

The Golden Panther's schedule also includes familiar teams such as cross-town rivals University of Miami on Oct. 13 in Coral Gables. "Playing Miami is always a rival for us," said Edwards.

This season kicks off with the first five games away. Their home opener is on Sunday, Sept. 12 against South Florida.

The Golden Panthers will host the 2004 Sun Belt Conference Tournament beginning on Nov. 5.

Despite coming in last place in the Sun Belt Conference last year, Coach Edwards is hopeful this year's players will not only carry their team with magnificent strength and ability, but hopes they will be strong throughout the season. "Life is full of challenges, this will be one," said Edwards.



EDWARDS

LADIES 2004 SOCCER

DATE	OPPONENT
08/27	@UCF
08/29	@Florida
09/03	@Texas
09/05	@Texas State
09/10	@Indiana
09/12	USF
09/19	@FSU
09/28	@FAU
10/01	Middle Tennessee
10/03	Western Kentucky
10/08	@South Alabama
10/10	@Louisiana- Lafayette
10/13	@Miami
10/22	Arkansas- Little Rock
10/24	Arkansas State
10/29	@Denver
10/31	@North Texas



Sunbelt
Tournament
at Miami, FL

Bold denotes home games

Get in shape with help from free campus fitness center

By **ANA SANCHEZ**
Contributing Writer

Want to fit into a new bathing suit? Tired of paying over priced fees for local gyms? Want to show off the six-pack of abs you've always wanted? Grab a water bottle and head to the Fitness Center located on the University Park campus.

This summer take advantage of all the Fitness Center has to offer. Show your FIU Golden Panther card at the entrance and enjoy a good workout while socializing with other students. Here is the best part: Fitness Center use has already been paid for by tuition costs.

Junior Emily Garcia uses the Fitness Center because "it's convenient, it's paid in our tuition and friends from school motivate you and make it easier to work out."

Current FIU students, professors, staff and alumni use the Fitness Center's services and with the growing number of students, a new facility

is on the way.

There are a wide variety of classes offered to accommodate personality and taste. Yoga and Spinning classes are offered at \$4 a class, Belly Dancing and Knockout for \$2 a class, and BLT (Butt Legs and Thighs) and

Awesome Abs classes are free. Personal trainers are also offered for guidance while working out in order to insure safety and provide assistance for new students who want to learn the proper guidelines to working out.

Helpful staff and friendly hours are other reasons why students go.

"I go four days a week, which includes unlimited use because it is covered by tuition and the staff is also really helpful", said Mimi Edmund, graduate student.

The gym, located on the grounds of the Golden Panther Arena, has accessible parking and is a good place to relieve stress from schoolwork.

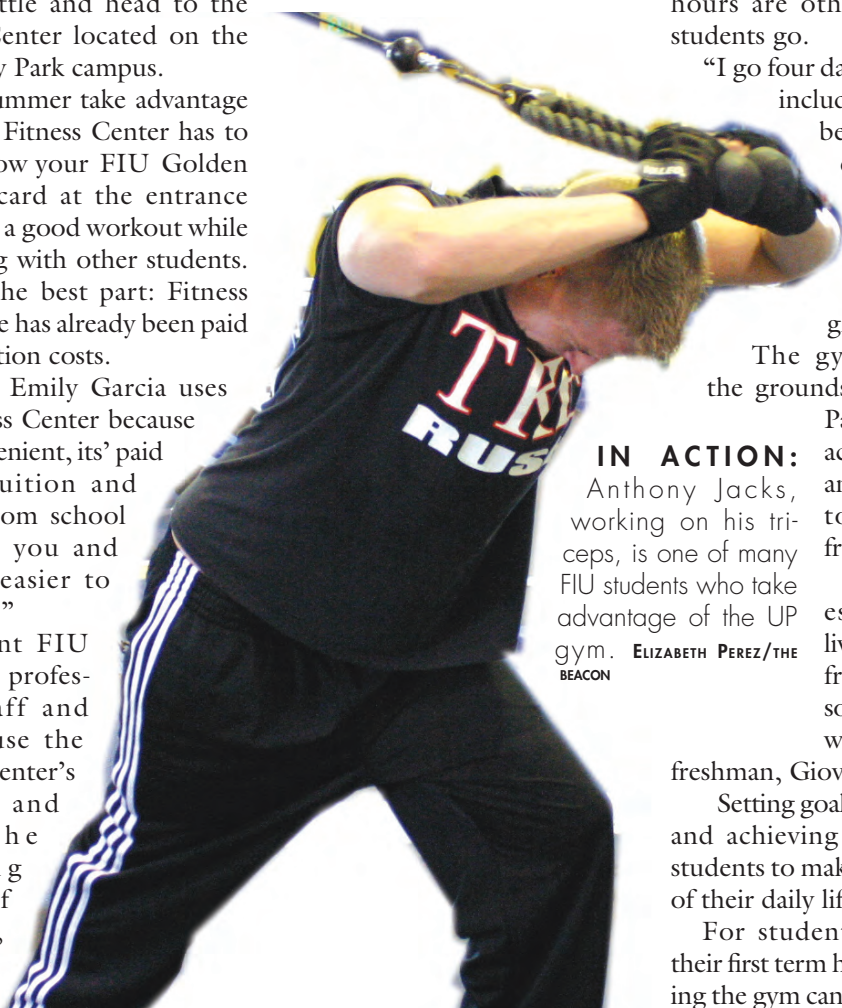
"It's close, especially if you live in housing, it's free and you can socialize while you work out", said freshman, Giovanni Mora.

Setting goals for this summer and achieving them motivate students to make exercising part of their daily lifestyle.

For students currently on their first term here at FIU, starting the gym can help you achieve

IN ACTION:

Anthony Jacks, working on his triceps, is one of many FIU students who take advantage of the UP gym. **ELIZABETH PEREZ/THE BEACON**



GYM CALENDAR

MONDAYS
7-8 am: Wake Up & Spin
12:30: BLT

1:00: Awesome Abs
5:30: Knock Out
6:30: Energy Yoga
8:00: Circuit Step
9:00: Awesome Abs

WEDNESDAYS
12:30: 20/20/20
5:30: BLT
6:00: Awesome Abs
6:30: Knock Out
7:30: Spinning
8:30: 20/20/20

FRIDAYS
7:00: Wake Up & Spin
5:30: Yoga
7:00: Spinning

SUNDAYS
4:00: Spinning
5:00: Awesome Abs
5:30: Energy Yoga

TUESDAYS
7:00: Wake Up & Kick
12:30: 20/20/20
5:30: Spinning
6:30: 20/20/20

7:30: Kung Fu Cardio
8:30: BLT
9:00: ABS

THURSDAYS
7:00: Wake Up & Kick
12:30: BLT
1:00: Awesome Abs
5:30: Yoga

7:00: Kung Fu Cardio
8:00: Spinning
9:00: Awesome Abs
SATURDAYS
10:00: Circuit Step

a new self image and help you maintain active through work out routines.

"I'm going to try to come everyday. So far I love it, and by the fall I would like to tone up," said Jaclyn Morris.

It is recommended for beginners to begin a routine with a certified physical trainer and attend three to four times a week. Combining weights with

cardiovascular workouts will add endurance and help you feel better.

Students should take advantage of the opportunities Fitness Center offers to maintain fit, feel healthy, and have fun while you're at it.

So whether it means getting toned or making new friends, the Fitness Center is the place to be this summer.