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The Beacon, April 07, 2005

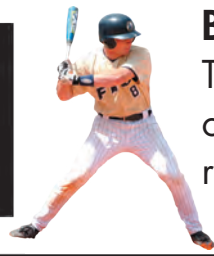
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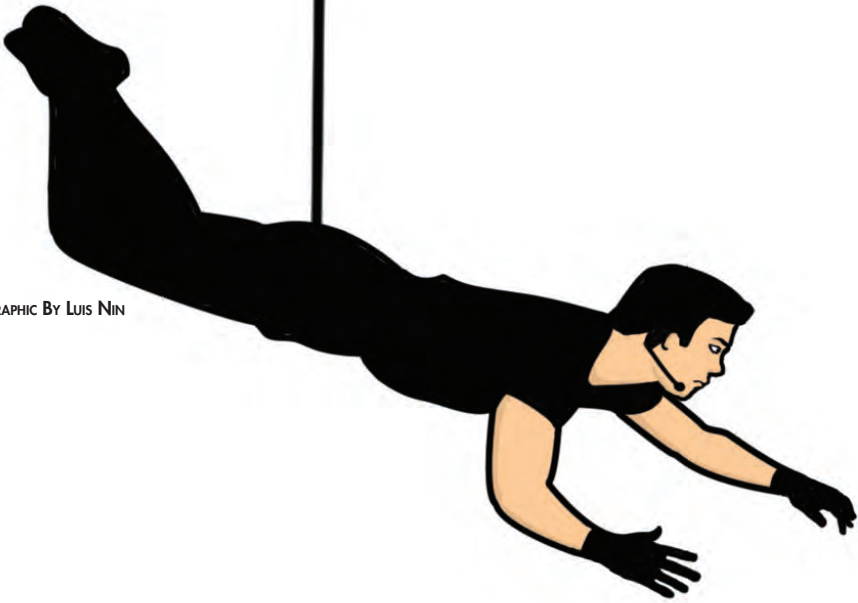
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GRAPHIC BY LUIS NIN



iSPY

FIU receives grant to train future intelligence analysts

By **ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA**
Staff Writer

The early part of this month marked a dramatic change in FIU's image nationwide.

On March 10, FIU received a grant from the federal government worth over \$750,000 for an 18-month pilot program to train future intelligence analysts.

The United States Intelligence Community, which is made up of a consortium

of 14 agencies that include the CIA, FBI and Department of Homeland Security, gave the grant to the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Policy and Citizenship studies at FIU's Center for Transnational and Comparative Studies.

According to Caryn A. Wagner, executive director for the U.S. Intelligence Community Affairs Office in Washington, D.C., the program is part of a legislative initiative to diversify the ranks of intelligence analysts.

Five schools were awarded money throughout the country. The other four were the Georgia Institute of Technology, Clark-Atlanta University, Tennessee State University and Trinity College in Washington, D.C.

Georgia Tech and Clark-Atlanta are participating under the same grant.

Classes will be open to any interested FIU student and could be compared to programs such as ROTC or security studies – two programs already available on campus.

Initially the programs will offer only a certificate, but the goal is to develop a graduate degree.

After the 18-month pilot program draws to a close, the consortium may choose to renew the grant for over four years, which would award the university up to \$3 million.

FIU's Provost and Vice President, Mark B. Rosenberg stated that the university has shown that it can compete nationwide for federal resources.

"We have shown we can compete nationally for resources that ultimately enhance the value we provide the nation, the state and the community," he said.

Rosenberg added that the new initiative will also provide many scholarships which will be competitively awarded to students who apply and meet the minimum standards.

Students could use the scholarships to pursue the advanced study of languages as well as other academic training.

"We have a strong track record of educating students for public service in fields such as nursing, education, public health and the military," Rosenberg said. "The Center for Academic Excellence Program will extend this to the national security professions."

Ralph Clem, director for the Center for Transnational and Comparative Studies and an international relations professor, acknowledged that the classes proposed by the program were not very different from those already offered at the university.

"It's subjects and skills [are those] such as political science, geography, statistical analysis and foreign languages. The program would coordinate all these subjects and add others to produce graduates who are competitive for jobs in Washington, D.C.," he said.

FIU student athletic fee among highest in nation

By **HARRY COLEMAN**
News Editor

Student athletic fees at FIU are 68 percent higher than the national average for Division I-A schools, according to the NCAA annual report Revenues and Expenses of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Under the budget, revealed on March 29, FIU students next year would pay \$10.1 million of the school's \$13.8 million athletic budget, or 73 percent.

"That is unusually high, and the magnitude concerns me," said Daniel Fulks, who compiles the NCAA annual report, in an interview with the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*. "The national average is about 5 percent," he said.

Florida Atlantic University is facing the same issue. At FAU, student fees provide \$7.9 million of this year's \$10.87 million athletic budget, also 73 percent.

Last year, after a student vote, FIU raised the athletic fee by \$1.38, the maximum amount allowed following a student vote.

"We had to go to the students and they answered yes. As we continue to mature, it is my hope that our budget is dependent on an outside income," said Athletic Director Rick Mello. "If the students would not have agreed [on the raise], we would not be where we are today."

Students at FIU were providing the majority of athletic funds before football was added in 2002; the sport that forced the raise in athletic fees in the last year.

The football program averages a yearly cost of \$3 million, but revenues have fallen short every year.

Ticket sales provide an average of 27 percent of revenue at I-A schools, yet FIU expects to get less than 5 percent of its athletic revenue from ticket sales next year.

According to Mello, FIU generates 15 to 20 percent of its funding from ticket sales and outside funding, which include private donations.

The football program is the main reason the athletic fee went up last year according to Mello. Attendance at football games is still very low and years away from providing an income for the athletic department.

The program, which is entering its second transition season of I-A football, failed to meet the mandatory 15,000 average last season. FIU averaged 10,095 in home attendance last season, falling short of the 15,000 mark.

"Since we are a new program, we don't have tradition to count on," Mello said. "I never told people that it was a quick fix. You can throw all the money you want, but tradition is not one of them."

Mello believes it will take a range between 20 and 25 years to create a football tradition at FIU.

"What we do today is for 25 years down the road. People have to understand that," Mello said. "Our students down the road, when they are alumni – 20 to 25 years from now, they will be amazed."



ROCK YOUR VOTE: Voting for Student Government Association positions took place April 5 and 6. Above, students vote in the Graham Center, one of three voting locations at University Park. **ALEX HERNANDEZ/THE BEACON**

NEWSFLASH

ON CAMPUS

MUN team wins awards at United Nations Conference in New York

FIU's Model United Nations team returned from the National Model United Nations Conference in New York with awards for the 13th year in a row.

An "Outstanding Delegation" first place award for excellence in position papers and a "Distinguished Delegation" second place award for performance were awarded to the team. This marks the fifth consecutive year the team has received an "Outstanding Delegation" award.

FIU's delegation represented Estonia at the conference.

The UN competition is one of the oldest and most prestigious for college students, having been created by the UN in the late 1940s. More than 3,500 college students from 150 universities from the United States, Europe, Africa, South America and Asia participated, according to Jeanne Kates, political science instructor and director for FIU's MUN program.

"I am particularly proud of the position papers award because, to me, that represents a high degree of academic achievement," said Kates.

Model United Nations (INR 4926) is a three-credit course offered each Spring semester by the Department of Political Science in conjunction with FIU's Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies.

The program is also supported by the FIU Student Government Association and the College of Arts and Sciences dean's office.

Summer housing sign up for students

Summer housing sign-up for both University Park and the Biscayne Bay Campus took place from April 5 through April 7 at the UP Housing Office.

Students interested in staying on-campus for the summer could choose between Panther Hall and Everglades Hall at UP and Bay Vista Housing at BBC. Both the UP Apartments and the UP Towers will be closed during the summer session.

In PH, students will be able to stay on the first, second and fourth floors. According to Prakash Karnani, the residence life coordinator, the third floor will be closed for renovations.

Students who did not sign up on time are urged to call the residential offices at (305) 348-4190.

DISCOVER

FIU FEATURES

FIU Broward-Pines Center cruise

By MICHAEL HAINES
Contributing Writer

This year's annual spring event sponsored by the Broward-Pines Student Government Association brought together FIU students, alumni, employees and their guests on a Vegas-style casino cruise April 2.

The cruise departed from the Broward County Courthouse on a trip along the New River in Ft. Lauderdale.

The casino opened its doors as the cruise left port. Games included fake gambling such as craps, blackjack, Texas hold 'em poker and roulette. Broward County recently voted to allow slots in its pari-mutuel facilities, but there were none on this cruise.

Everyone onboard received a voucher for \$5,000 worth of chips. People with the most chips were awarded first, second and third place prizes.

Those who were not interested in gambling were entertained by the views of the houses along the New River and the Intracoastal Waterway.

The people in attendance savored an array of appetizers including coconut shrimp and Beef Wellington. For dinner, guests were served teriyaki chicken, tri-color tortellini in a tomato basil sauce, sides of medley of rice and green beans and a salad.

Food was displayed and served everywhere on board.

"We definitely weren't going to go hungry," said Karen Jensen, of the wide variety and amounts of foods on the cruise.

Tickets for Muvico Theaters and Flamingo Gardens, calculators and airboat rides were raffled.

For Janet Fisher, guest of an FIU student, preferred a chocolate mousse layer cake over a prize she won.

"I've got to go downstairs and eat my dessert," she said, instead of checking the contents of the gift pack she won in the raffle.

The announcement of the top three gamblers capped off the evening.

Guest Merrick Kalan took the grand prize of a two-night stay at a Marriott hotel along with his incredible \$163,000 in winnings which came from playing roulette most of the night.

Ivy Siegel, a campus life

employee, helped arrange the event. According to Siegel, the cruise guests reflected the students of the Broward-Pines Center campus, a slightly older group with a median age of 30.

"We attract an older,

working student body," said Siegel, of the Pines Center, which offers mostly morning and evening classes.

The Broward Pines Center is located on 17195 Sheridan St in Pembroke Pines. The center targets

working adult students, who take courses in the evenings and on Saturdays. Approximately 2000 students are enrolled per semester. The campus offers undergraduate, graduate and professional programs.



ROLL THOSE DICE!: SGA sponsored a one-day event for students from the Broward-Pines Center. Guests on board the cruise ship had a wide range of fake gambling games and a savory assortment of gourmet foods. MICHAEL HAINES/THE BEACON

SPRING 2005 COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE

Mon. May 2, 2005

10 a.m. – College of Arts & Sciences

3 p.m. – School of Journalism and Mass Communication and College of Health and Urban Affairs

Tues. May 3, 2005

10 a.m.

School of Architecture, College of Engineering and College of Education

3 p.m.

College of Business Administration and All undergraduate EXCEPT School of Accounting

7:30 p.m.

School of Hospitality & Tourism Management
College of Business Administration:

- School of Accounting
- Chapman Graduate School – ALL Business Masters and Doctoral degrees

THE BEACON



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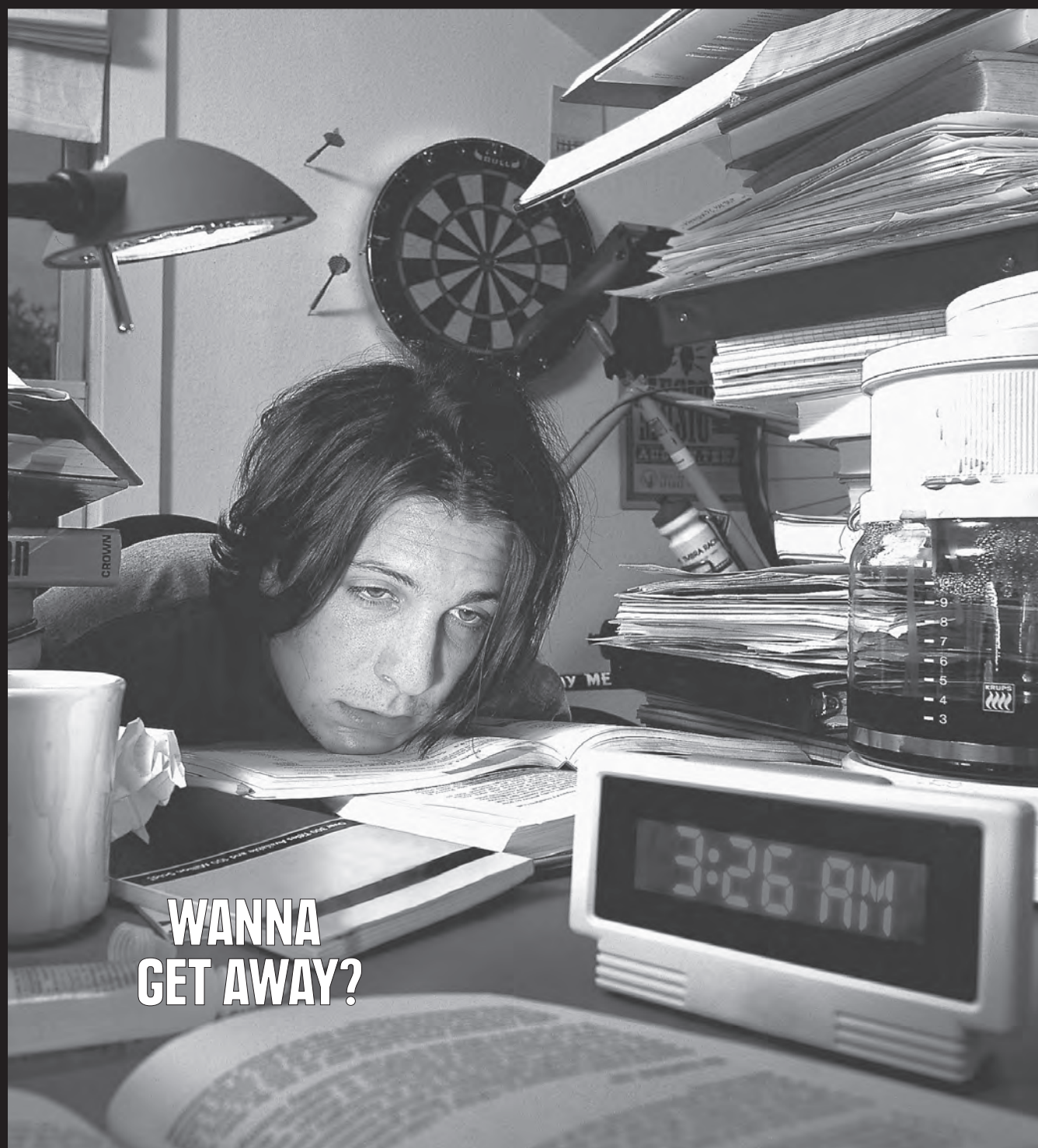
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Chicago (Midway)

Ft. Lauderdale
(22 miles to downtown Miami)

Harlingen/South Padre Island

Las Vegas

Los Angeles (LAX)

New Orleans

Oakland
(18 miles to downtown San Francisco)

Philadelphia

Phoenix

Providence
(A better way to Boston)

Reno/Tahoe

Salt Lake City

San Diego

Seattle/Tacoma

Tampa Bay

West Palm Beach

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OPINION

Alejandra Diaz Editor In Chief • John Lovell Managing Editor • Jessica Iser Opinion Editor

COMIC BOOKS: THE RETURN!

By C. JOEL MARINO
Senior Staff Writer

Though I've loved to read since I was a kid, comic books in particular have always held a special place in my heart. Some of my best childhood memories feature me sitting beside my father on Buenos Aires buses on our way to piano class, with copies of "The Flash," "Uncanny X-Men" or the latest "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" cradled hungrily between my hands.

Growing up, I was the butt of jokes by other kids and adults who would label comics as "baby stuff," "books for the immature" (as an English teacher of mine once put it) and "plain garbage;" the argument was that anything with pictures and word bubbles could not capture the reality of everyday life.

It was to my surprise then, that walking through the University Park Bookstore a few weeks ago, I came across a table display marked "Graphic Novels" (a modern term for adult-oriented comic books), lined with some of the volumes I've loved so much for the past few years.

However, after the happy surprise and shock subsided, questions began to present themselves: What were comic books doing on display in a university bookstore? Nearby I could see a

display of Maya Angelou's works, a collection of world classics and a poetry section. So why place those "immature" comic books smack in the middle of such a selection?

While thinking about this question for the last few weeks, I've been amazed to notice that unlike the reactions I received years ago, comic books are now being seen in a new light.

For the 2004 Miami-Dade College Book Festival, the annual print Mecca held at the school's downtown Wolfson Campus, the event's coordinating council chose none other than graphic novels as last year's theme.

Not only did they bring such acclaimed comic authors as Art Spiegelman and Marjane Satrapi to give lectures to packed audiences, but they also displayed the works of some of the most celebrated cartoonists in modern comic book history at the campus's art museum.

So why the sudden interest in comic books?

People are discovering a sense of storytelling, emotions and even poetry that have been evident to me since I began reading this under-appreciated art form. Modern comic book and graphic novel writers introduce themes

into their work that could easily be compared to Greek dramas and Victorian

prose.

Satrapi and Spiegelman have introduced autobiographical sincerity to their pieces. The first was through "Persepolis," a chronicle of Satrapi's childhood in chaotic Iran during the revolutions of the 1980s. The second was through "Maus," a poignant account of Spiegelman's father's ordeals in German concentration camps, which became the only comic book to ever win a Pulitzer Prize.

In the '80s and early '90s, the three most popular writers of comic book fiction (Alan Moore, Frank Miller and Neil Gaiman) brought a true-life style to the form that shook the concepts of what a comic should be.

Moore's most famous contribution, "Watchmen," portrayed an alternate universe where superheroes seemed to cause more harm than good and were banned from saving the day (a theme borrowed in last year's hit movie "The Incredibles") against the backdrop of an imminent nuclear showdown between Russia and the United States.

Miller's, "The Dark Knight Returns," reinvented the image of one of America's most famous heroes, Batman. Miller portrayed the caped crusader as an aging and violent vigilante in a world overrun with crime and insanity.

However, the series I cherish the most and consider to have elevated modern comic books to the status of literature is Neil Gaiman's, "The Sandman."

Throughout its sevenyear run, Gaiman packed his masterpiece about the King of Dreams and his dysfunctional family with enough literary, mythical, historical and religious references to fill a library of commentaries. I found poetry encased in word bubbles, an epic story of love and death and sacrifice wrapped around an inker's pen.

A comic book is art about life the same way that books and movies are. I'm happy the form is making a comeback and reaching a new, wider audience.

Maybe now people will see the beauty I saw many years ago while I sat on those torn Buenos Aires bus seats on my way to piano class.

ALAN MOORE'S WATCHMEN



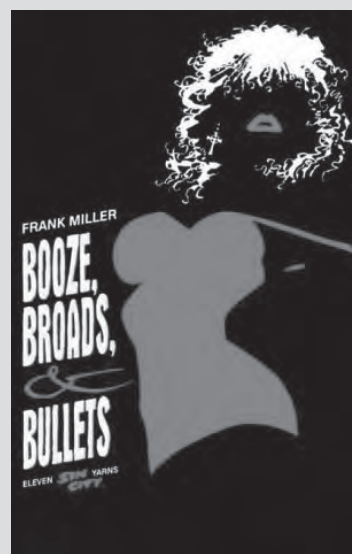
An ex-superhero called the Comedian is murdered. He is thrown out of a window from his high-rise apartment and falls to his death.

The police are clueless, and it is up to the psychopathic, vigilante-superhero, Rorschach, to find the murderer.

But, the conspiracy that leads to the Comedian's murder extends further than he ever imagined.

Is Rorschach in over his head?

FRANK MILLER'S SIN CITY



Gangsters, crooked cops, mobsters and hookers all come center stage in this ultra-violent comic book.

Author and illustrator Frank Miller, employs a very unique style – pure black and white with no shades of grey.

His unique art brings the gritty underbelly of the crime-ridden Basin City to life with unbelievable style.

Recently adapted to a major motion picture, "Sin City" is achieving an unbelievable level of popularity.

NEIL GAIMAN'S SANDMAN



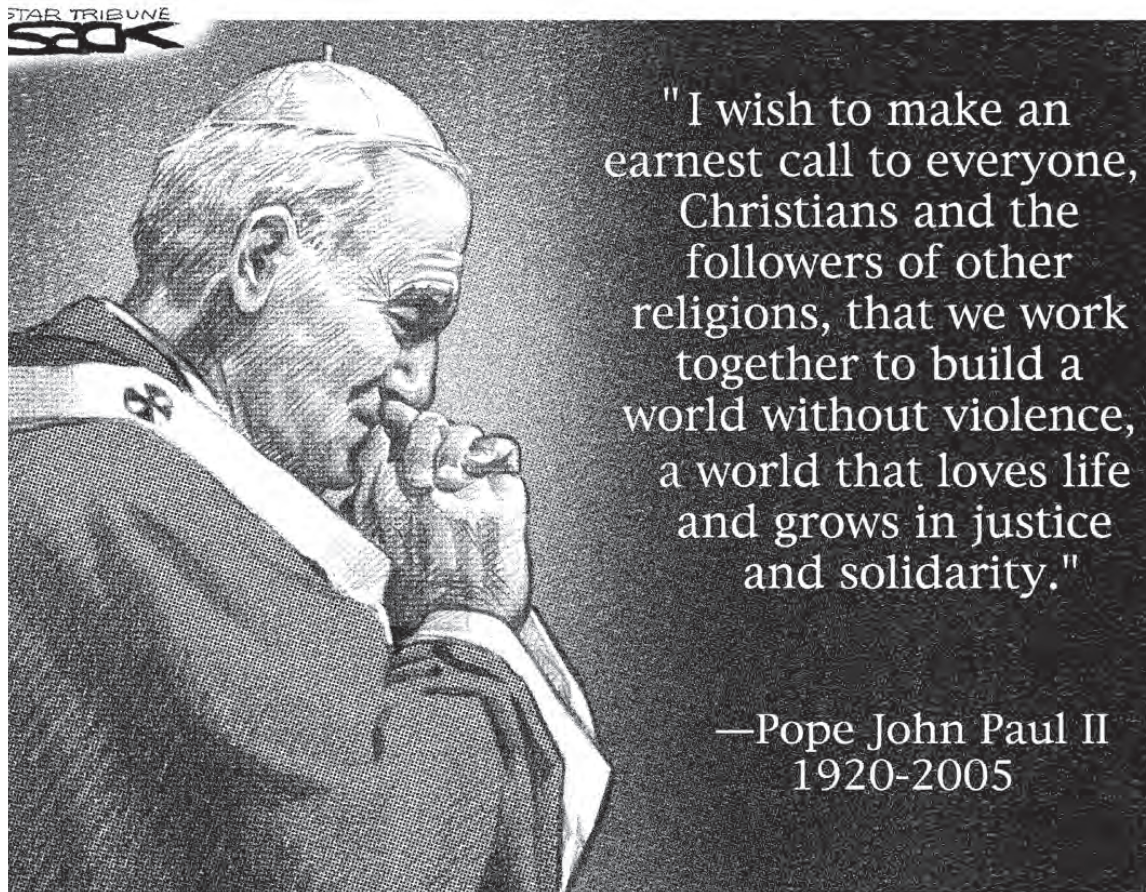
Morpheus, the Lord of Dreams, is more than just a god, he is one of the Endless. The Endless are a family of supernatural beings who embody the fundamental aspects of the universe.

Neil Gaiman's "Sandman" is a collection of stories about Morpheus and his realm, the Dreaming.

With allusions, to literature, mythology and history, Gaiman's "Sandman" reaches a level of sophistication that leaves other comics in the dust.

Summaries by Luis Nin





"I wish to make an earnest call to everyone, Christians and the followers of other religions, that we work together to build a world without violence, a world that loves life and grows in justice and solidarity."

—Pope John Paul II
1920-2005

The death penalty necessary justice for criminals found guilty

By **DARA BRAMSON**
Staff Writer

It may be the most ominous walk in the world. A mere 20 yards from a stark death row cell to the death chamber – arguably the loneliest and most despairing juncture in a human life.

Now, the moments preceding this annihilation of a life is bizarre, at best.

The accused is offered a last meal of their choice: lobster, steak, pheasant and truffles? He is kindly given some solace while talking to a spiritual advisor or religious leader of their faith.

Finally, he is offered an opportunity to unite with friends and loved ones.

Now, the convict solemnly takes his final walk down the bare hallway leading to the place where he knows, with an almost inescapable degree of certainty, he will take his last breath.

This is the place he will die.

How can a supposedly civilized society extract its justice from a system of vengeance like this? It's simple.

These people, convicted beyond a reasonable doubt, will die in a way that neither you nor I are ever likely to be so lucky, or entitled to experience.

Assorted methods are used across the country to carry out executions.

At Raiford, Florida's execution site, convicts enter the room and are strapped to a gurney.

After being asked if they have any last words and the final order from an official is given, they are injected with a painkiller and anesthesia, to render them unconscious and ensure they feel absolutely no pain.

Statistics tell me that not a single executed convict has ever committed another crime. That is proof enough for me.

They drift off into a peaceful, painless slumber. A fatal mix of drugs then begins its journey into their veins to stop the heart and force the cessation of life.

It is quiet, peaceful, serene and absolutely painless. The offender's exodus from the world is a luxury.

A luxury that their victims – who may have begged for their lives, who may have been tortured or abused – never had.

There are those bleeding hearts that will tell you that the death penalty has never served as a deterrent to crime.

Statistics tell me that not a single executed convict has ever committed another crime. That is proof enough for me.

"The death penalty should not only be kept in place, but also enforced more quickly. Those sentenced to the death penalty that spend years, if not decades, on death row are spending taxpayers money to stay in almost luxurious prisons," said sophomore Lindsey Donaldson.

With the current state of criminology, DNA and forensic science, it is a virtual certainty that the convicted are, in reality, the perpetrators.

Of the prisoners exonerated in the last five years, the majority were convicted prior to the 1990s.

This fact proves that while there still may be a margin for error, it is dwindling with time and remarkable technological breakthroughs.

On Feb. 26, an article in

The Boston Globe announced that a group of lawmakers in Springfield are aiming to terminate Illinois' moratorium on death penalty executions.

Rather than adhere to the reasonable-doubt clause, they hope to abide instead by "guilt beyond any doubt" when formulating a conclusion during the penalty phase in a capitol case.

The lawmakers believe this will minimize the risk of putting the wrong person to death because it will eliminate any chance of error, only sentencing those who have been proven guilty beyond any doubt to death.

In other words, those criminals with blood on their hands.

"The death penalty should be used in extreme cases only, like when a person has brutally killed people. But in reality, I don't think I'm for it. I think the worst punishment in life is to spend it in prison, thinking about the crime you've committed day in and day out," said junior Alethea Perez.

I truly hurt for that one man or woman wrongly accused and convicted.

But, not nearly as much as I hurt for the victims and families of the Ted Bundys, John Wayne Gacys, Jeffrey Dahmers and Charles Mansons of the world.

As a result of our insistence that the rights of the accused weigh more than the rights of the victims, these men could be stalking you and your children right now.

So, which innocents have greater rights?

EDITORIAL

Upcoming election of Pope John Paul II's successor should be a difficult decision

As cardinals (members of the Roman Catholic Church's governing body) gather this week in Rome to elect a new pope following John Paul II's death on April 2, they will have to keep in mind that their successor's role in international affairs will be monitored not only by the world's one billion plus Catholics, but also by people of differing creeds and religious affiliations.

This is the result of Pope John Paul II's 26-year dedication to involvement in world politics, and the special attention he gave the plight of third-world countries and authoritarian nations.

Rumors have spread that the cardinals may elect an African or South American pope to reflect Catholicism's rise in those parts of the globe, though many have been clamoring for a return to an Italian-born pontiff.

Whatever the ethnicity or nationality of the new pope, it is certain that the cardinals should be on the lookout for a man well-versed in current affairs and able to understand the major role he will play in his church, as well as outside.

Whereas John Paul II was criticized for his conservative leanings, often censoring or prohibiting the works of theologians who disagreed with him, the new pope should be aware of the massive availability of information, and be able to defend his own religion's views while introducing a forum for communication that could be beneficial to the church's ideological growth.

If anything, the new pope will definitely have a tough act to follow.

As the public face of Catholicism to "the city and the world," as the Catholic catechism puts it, John Paul II's successor will have to be able to handle the role of being the most powerful man on earth and having the spiritual humility such a position requires.

– Joel Marino,
Senior Staff Writer

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER

Lottery winners: 110 lucky lottery players won Iowa's \$26 million Powerball on Thursday. The winners revealed that they got the winning numbers from a fortune cookie. Uncle Chang's Winning Lotto Numbers Restaurant refused to comment.

LOSER

Stabbed man: A Tokyo man was waiting for a cab April 2, when Juichi Ohara says that the man waiting for the cab gave him a dirty look. Afraid the man was going to attack him, he stabbed him in the chest with a knife. Conveniently, the hailed cab made a great getaway car.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition should be allowed to use FIU parking?

- Yes. Sharing is caring. **18%**
- No. There is a shortage of parking as it is. **52%**
- What do I care? My mom drops me off at school. **4%**
- It should be but only at specific times of the day. **22%**
- I only come to school to go to the fair anyway. **4%**

Total participants: 113
Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com



EXEMPLARY EXHIBIT: Graduate students Yomarie Silva and Isabel Moros-Rigau displayed their artwork in the 2005 MFA Art Exhibit. Original art pieces included simple family photography and different sculptures. Themes of the works ranged from nature to underwater imagery painted on pillars. **ALEX HERNANDEZ/THE BEACON**

MFA 2005

Yomarie Silva and Isabel Moros-Rigau showcase their master works at FIU



By **ANA SANCHEZ**
BBC Editor

With her sculpture, Yomarie Silva exhibits what she found on her search for perfect beauty. And what did she find? Nature.

In her photography, Isabel Moros-Rigau uses natural light to display the relationship that is most important to her – family.

These artists are among the 2005 graduates who received a Master of Fine Arts at FIU.

As part of the graduate program, the students must display a portfolio of their work in the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum.

Silva and Moros-Rigau had the opportunity to do so on April 1 at the reception of the annual MFA Spring Exhibition.

Before the reception, the students discussed their work during the Wednesday After Hours, a program in which the museum stays open an extra three hours after closing.

The MFA graduates gave a brief description of their work and then answered questions from peers and professors.

Art History Professor, Manuel Torres reflected on the progress his two students have made.

“They both have demonstrated real persistence and have pursued their own direction without letting anything distract them,” said Torres.

Organic leaves are a central part of Silva’s aluminum sculptures, because she believes that perfection is already in nature.

One of her other pieces that

followed the nature theme, displayed jellyfish tentacles painted on pillars with what looked like a copper fish.

During her demonstration, Silva was critical of her work and, explained that she lacked simplicity.

“We need to understand that the work is never finished. It does us no good to be complacent,” said Silva.

Moros-Rigau photographs under available natural light. Her subjects include her children – Kasper and Odyssea – and her nephew, Sebastian. She said in her description of her work, that self is “reflected in a relationship with the object of her photo.”

One of the photos show her daughter’s scraped knee. Another shows the children in a car with Kasper in a baby seat grabbing his foot with Odyssea sitting next to him. The photos are presented in black-framed squares.

“This is not like traditional family photographs,” said Moros-Rigau.

Along with the photos, she had a video that showed the children being themselves – hitting keys on a piano.

Geoffrey Olsen, associate professor for Art and Art History, most admires Moros-Rigau’s work for its realism and lack of artifice.

“Her agenda is to go against conventional family photographs. In that sense she is a realist. She shows [in her photographs] her kids are not on their best behavior.”

On opening night, Olsen

congratulated the artists for their hard work.

Ana B. Galano, Silva’s personal friend came to the reception. She was part of the first group to graduate from the MFA program in 2001.

“Yomarie has gone through a sophisticated, mature filter and this is the end result; she’s focused,” said Galano.

To celebrate, family members and peers congratulated the artists, had some wine and took pictures with Silva and Moros-Rigau.

Silva reflects on her MFA degree and on her future by saying, “This is our terminal degree and it is very important. What matters is what happens from here on. School is a safe place. I have to think about how I’m going to push myself forward to achieve what I have in mind – ideally of course.”

Moros-Rigau is appreciative of her years of study and conscious of FIU’s influence on her art.

“You want to feel you’re beyond the academic world and that you can survive beyond it. The best thing about art is actually doing it, but you have to realize that there is a lot out of your control and that you won’t be living a luxurious life, but certainly a happy one expressing yourself,” said Moros-Rigau.





PRODUCERS!

1968 classic hits Jackie Gleason Theatre

By ANA RIBEIRO
Staff Writer

The Broadway version of Mel Brooks's 1968 film "The Producers," starring Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick, hit Miami's Jackie Gleason Theater March 29 through April 3 on its national tour.

The musical has been an enormous success on Broadway – with sold-out audiences and a record-breaking 12 Tony Awards.

Brooks is known for treating serious issues and taboos with a mixture of wit and slapstick humor, which come together in "The Producers."

Subjects addressed include homosexuality, the Nazi party, sexual favors for money and the deception of the IRS.

Max Bialystock (Bob Amaral), is a once-successful Broadway producer who has developed a knack for making absolute flops. By serving as a part-time gigolo to lonely old ladies, Max is able to raise money for his productions.

His clients include Hold-me Touch-me, Lick-me Bite-me and Kiss-me Feel-me.

Leo Bloom (Andy Taylor), a frustrated and insecure accountant, dreams of becoming a producer. He gets a shot by joining up with Max to produce "the worst musical ever" as part of a scam.

Max and Leo choose to produce "Springtime for Hitler," a musical written by neo-Nazi Franz Liebkind (Bill Nolte), which is to be a sure-fire flop.

To further assist them in making sure the production will tank, Max and Leo hire cross-dresser Roger De Bris (Stuart Marland), "the worst director ever," his partner Carmen Ghia (Rich Affannato) as choreographer and a cast that includes the producers' nymphomaniac Swedish secretary Ulla (Ida Leigh Curtis) as well as other untalented actors.

A blend of parody and paradox, "The Producers" draws upon musicals such as "Chicago," with dancing prisoners, dreams that invade reality and the infamous who become famous; and "The Sound of Music," with purity, colorfulness and yodeling in the Alps in the midst of evil and the war.

One of the big surprises is a



POPULAR PRODUCTIVITY: Mel Brooks's Broadway version of "The Producers" appeared at the Jackie Gleason Theatre in Downtown Miami March 29 through April 3. The same set that was used on the Broadway musical is being used for the nation-wide tour. **COURTESY PHOTOS**

chorus line of Nazis, the rigid villains who are clumsy and sensitive.

As the plot unfolds, the insulting becomes pleasing, Nazi Germany meets Brazilian carnival, The Village People are resurrected and Hitler comes out of the closet.

The actors' voices have been well-rehearsed to sound unrehearsed. The acting is impressive, because it's hard to be good at pretending to be a bad actor, let alone to act in the musical, "The Producers," where there's a musical within a musical.

Choreography and direction are meticulously executed by Susan Stroman, who has won multiple awards and also directed Broadway's, "Oklahoma!" and "Showboat."

The colorful sets provide a three-dimensional illusion with kaleidoscopic projections, bright

dot-patterned lights, mirrors that create special effects and creatively smooth set changes that use song and dance to distract the audience.

The pre-production and actual presentation of what was intended to become "the worst musical ever," ironically turns out to be a real-life super production.

Although the characters indulge in rather lengthy bouts of silliness and dancing during certain parts, "The Producers" is hysterically entertaining.

Brooks, a Jew who served the army during World War II, gets his hilarious revenge on Hitler.

THEATER

★★★★

"The Producers"
Directed by Susan Stroman
Written by Mel Brooks

WEEKend

THURSDAY • APRIL 7

WHAT: Speed Networking at Coconut Grove
WHERE: Oxygen Lounge
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: School of Music presents FIU Big Band featuring Carla Ramirez (vocalist)
WHERE: WPAC Concert Hall
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: African New World Studies and the Women's Center present "Rape as a Weapon"
WHERE: DM 100
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: FIU Theatre presents "Hair: The Musical"
WHERE: WPAC Concert Hall
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$12 (Regular) \$10 (Student)

FRIDAY • APRIL 8

WHAT: SPC Comedy Connection
WHERE: GC Ballrooms
WHEN: 8p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: School of Music presents Collegium Musicum – Renaissance and Baroque Music of England
WHERE: WPAC Concert Hall
WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

SATURDAY • APRIL 9

WHAT: Golden Panthers Baseball hosts Alabama
WHERE: University Park Baseball Field
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5 (Adults), \$3 (Seniors and Children), Free (FIU students with ID)

WHAT: FIU Theatre presents "Hair: The Musical"
WHERE: WPAC Concert Hall
WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$12 (Regular), \$10 (Students)

SUNDAY • APRIL 10

WHAT: School of Music presents Faculty Piano Recital
WHERE: WPAC Concert Hall
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

– Reuben Pereira
beaconevents@yahoo.com

BACK in TIME

April 7, 1927

The first simultaneous telecast of image and sound takes place on this day in 1927. Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover read a speech in Washington, D.C., which was transmitted to Bell Telephone Laboratories in New York City, where an audience saw and heard a tiny televised image of Hoover, less than 3 inches square.

– historychannel.com

Art museum director retires after 25 years

By GIOVANI BENITEZ
Staff Writer

She embraces brush strokes and sculptures, and for 25 years, her love of artwork and students has revealed a passion to teach, listen and serve. Upon retirement, nothing will change. Dahlia Morgan's quarter-century legacy as director for FIU's Frost Art Museum ended when she retired in late March.

Under Morgan's leadership, the museum was home to nearly 200 exhibitions and hosted countless lectures by artists and museum directors like Pierre Rosenberg of France's Louvre Museum and Philippe de Montebello of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. But the passion to attract such speakers hasn't always been there. In fact, Morgan remembers the days and nights she couldn't even understand art.

"I realized as a young person that I really didn't know what I was looking at," said Morgan, as she remembered some of the first pieces of art she tried to analyze. "I didn't understand what I was seeing. At least I knew

enough to know I was pretty ignorant."

That self-proclaimed ignorance took Morgan around the world, traveling to places like Europe where art and history blend.

"It just enhanced and enriched my education and my empathy and my understanding of the world. I'm very passionate about it," she said.

The university is equally passionate about her. In a memorandum to the university community, Provost and Executive Vice President Mark Rosenberg shared his personal remarks.

"FIU's robust art programs owe much to Dahlia Morgan, who single-handedly transformed a modest student gallery into a world-class university art museum," Rosenberg wrote. "Dahlia has set the highest standard for helping us to build FIU."

Mercy Advocat, development and membership coordinator for the Frost Art Museum, agrees.

"My first impression was that she was such an entrepreneur. She created something out of nothing. She listened to our membership. By listening, she

delivered," said Advocat, who worked with Morgan for 12 years.

It all started in the late 1970s, when FIU had an enrollment of less than 5,000 and two buildings made up the entire campus.

An adjunct professor at the time, Morgan was asked to take over the art museum, which was then called the Visual Arts Gallery.

With a budget of a mere \$2,000, Morgan immediately began planning a critics' lecture series. She personally made 500 phone calls inviting people to the first lecture.

That persistence and determination made her a local celebrity in the art scene, and the response was immediate.

"From there, I was very fortunate because I got to know people ... Finally, those people came to me and said they thought we should start a support group for the museum. I made it my frenzy," Morgan said.

Years later, local newspapers took an interest in Morgan's life and career. In September 2003, *The Miami Herald* praised Morgan for the way she spoke to crowds, calling her "an academic with the attitude of a generous friend," and saying she "could just as easily be

welcoming visitors into her living room to share a bowl of her favorite strawberry fruit salad."

"I think it's because I feel very directly to the art ... and I may have a gift to be able to communicate what the art is about to the general public in a manner that they can easily understand," Morgan said. "There is a direct line between the object and the person. Sometimes you just need an intermediary, and that's how I see myself. In order to understand the art, you must understand what the intention of the artist was, and that's where I come in."

Morgan's largest accomplishment is currently under construction: a 45,000 square foot museum being built across from the Wertheim Performing Arts Center. Morgan's fund raising techniques helped her raise over \$12 million for its development; she said the new four-story museum will be a historic addition to the campus.

"Every great university has a museum, and we had all the ingredients, because I was here long enough to understand the community and to have received so much community support. I convinced [the administration] that if we attempted a fund raising campaign for a

major university museum, that we would be successful, and I was correct," Morgan said.

Her presence will always be felt in the new structure, as Morgan said the members lounge will be in her name. On display: a list of all the visitors who were part of the original museum's nationally acclaimed lecture series.

Even though Morgan has decided to retire, she looks back at her years as director of the museum and remembers exactly why she took the job in the first place.

"Our student body is incredible. Kids from all

over the world – so smart, so interesting, so wanting to learn that it made me a better professor and a better director and made it possible to fundraise, because the people could see that, and they wanted a great museum," Morgan said.

While her official tenure has ended, Morgan said she plans to stay in South Florida and continue to help the university in the development of the new Frost Art Museum.

In the meantime, the university has appointed Assistant Director Stacey de la Grana as acting director of the museum.



MORGAN



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Studies prove peanuts as source for a healthy diet

By **DESONTA HOLDER**
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Go ahead and get a little nutty. That's what Dr. Leonard J. Ram of Stuart, Fla., wants you to do.

As founder of The Ram Nut Diet, created over the past three years, he tried it out on himself and lost 30 pounds over a year. He has kept the weight off for two years and he's still sticking with the program.

It's not about counting calories, eating special

meals or riding the Stair-Master to exhaustion. It's about nuts - almonds, cashews, pistachios, etc. Before you balk at the fat and calorie content, consider that most of the fat in nuts is unsaturated, meaning it can lower your LDL cholesterol.

Nuts are also high in fiber and protein, and they're a good source of vitamins and minerals.

"Nuts were taboo 10 or 15 years ago," Ram said. But they're "not only

healthy, but extremely satisfying."

The Ram Nut Diet focuses on eating raw or roasted nuts to control hunger. For optimum benefits, Ram suggests you exercise and hire a nutritionist or dietitian to help turn this diet into a lifestyle.

The program is outlined in his book "The Ram Nut Diet," and it's taught at his eight weight-loss centers across the state, with one in Miami, Weston and

Boca Raton.

At the weight-loss centers, a 12-week program starts at about \$60 a week for an individual and includes sessions with a nutritional consultant.

Just knowing you have to check in with a counselor will help keep you on track.

Claudia Gonzalez, a dietitian at Ram Nutrition and Weight Loss in Miami, says snacking on an ounce of nuts between well-balanced meals will make you

feel fuller, causing you to eat less.

"You'll have a nutritious, satisfying snack so you won't need to eat extra," Gonzalez said. If you were to snack on junk food instead, "the empty calories won't satisfy you" and you could end up overeating.

With a weight-loss coach, dieters "learn not only how to eat well, but how to deal with food issues," Gonzalez said. "They learn about the

basics of nutrition. ... They become aware of how to maintain their weight."

"The clients eat real food, no special bars or shakes. It's a lifestyle. You can apply the tools to your daily life," Gonzales said.

"A lot of dieters feel like they're starving themselves," Ram said. "We convince people this program can be continued indefinitely because they're not hungry and nuts are tasty food. It's a very satisfying program."



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FIU avoids sweep with help of freshman bat

BASEBALL, from page 12

FIU did not get on the board until the fifth inning when Lozano scored following a fielding and a throwing error by UNO.

UNO then scored two runs in the bottom of the fifth inning for a 5-1 lead.

FIU scored another run in the sixth after an RBI single by Lopez scored Pullin from second base.

New Orleans replied with four more runs in the bottom of the sixth and three runs in the seventh, capitalizing on four FIU errors.

The Golden Panthers scored 13 runs in the final three innings of the game to prevent the road sweep.

Starting pitcher Elih Villanueva (5-2) pitched six and two-third innings, allowed seven runs, 12 hits, walked one and struck out two.

Hernandez (1-2) earned his first win of the season as he pitched two and one-third inning, allowed one unearned run and, two hits, struck out two and walked none.

Jordan went 4-for-6 with six RBI, two doubles and a run scored. Junior Yahmed Yema, Pullin and Rivera each had three hits to pace an 18-hit attack for FIU.

FIU took an early lead in the second inning after Yema led off the inning

with an infield single to the shortstop. He proceeded to steal second base and advanced to third on a throwing by the UNO catcher.

Jordan then singled to right field to bring Yema home.

After UNO tied the game at one, FIU delivered two more runs in the fifth after Rivera scored on a fielding error and Diaz scored off a double to left field by Pullin.

The Privateers replied with three runs in the bottom of the inning to take a 4-3 lead.

FIU tied the game again in the very next inning off an infield single by Rivera scored Jordan.

It wasn't until the eighth when FIU

broke the game open. The Golden Panthers entered the inning trailing 8-7, but after they scored six runs - all with two outs - they never looked back.

After Rivera led off the inning with a single and Pullin was hit by a pitch, Yema hit a two-out, three-run homerun to right field.

Then redshirt junior Nick Cadena was also hit by a pitch and advanced to second on a balk. Youtsey singled up the middle, which allowed Cadena to score, and advanced to second on a fielding error.

Back-to-back RBI doubles by Jordan and freshman Corey Lozano scored the final two runs of the inning.

The Golden Panthers added four more runs in the ninth.

FIU 17 NEW ORLEANS 9

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Hard work and versatility define third baseman

By **ALDEN GONZALEZ**
Staff Writer

With the month of March concluded, the FIU baseball team is off to one of its best starts in recent years.

The baseball program holds a 22-11 record and is geared toward a successful second half, thanks in large part to the productive play of newcomer Nick Cadena. After playing for Arizona State University under current assistant coach Chris Hollick, Cadena has had to deal with many new obstacles during his move to Miami.

Growing up in Phoenix, Cadena has openly accepted the challenges of a new city, new teammates and most of all, new positions.

This season Cadena has made the switch to third base and recently, catcher (a position he claims he hasn't played more than 20 innings his whole life).

It has been Cadena's flexibility and acceptance of new challenges that has made this season successful.

The Beacon recently sat down with FIU's third baseman to chat about baseball, life and everything surrounding them.

Q: What is something about your game that has always come naturally to you?

Definitely my competitiveness. I am a very hard worker, and I've always had that drive to want to succeed. It has really led to my success.

Q: What has been the toughest chal-

lenge for you thus far?

Basically running different positions. I was originally a shortstop, and then I got moved to right field and then third base. Now just recently with the injury to [Cody] Jacobs, I've had to [play catcher].

Q: What was it about FIU that made you decide to attend?

I know that they struggled last year and I could see that they really wanted to win. [Chris] Hollick had some very good things to say about the program, and I was really intrigued.

Q: Of all the positions you've played, which is your favorite?

Right now I like third base. I'm getting much better at it. The thing about me is that I like challenges. Whenever something new comes up, I'm excited, and I want to do it. This whole [playing catcher] thing is new to me, but it was a challenge, and I was excited to take it on.

Q: Which teammate have you learned the most from since coming here?

Probably [junior first baseman] Mike Lopez. Like me, he's a real hard worker, and he's just a competitor. [He and I] would do anything to win.

Q: What is one thing Coach Danny Price has taught you?

Just enjoying the game again. Back at home I really wasn't having fun anymore, but Price taught me how to enjoy the game again. I am extremely thankful to all the coaches for bringing me here and giving me this opportunity.

Q: The biggest reason for this year's team's success is ...

Leadership and drive. The good thing about us is that it's not just one guy stepping up and being the leader. It's a total group effort and everybody has contributed. Danny Price also instills a lot of drive in us. He just gets us all on the same page.

Q: Who is your favorite baseball player?

Pete Rose. That guy gave a hundred percent everyday. He's what a baseball player should be.

Q: Whom do you most admire and why?

My mom and dad. They've gone through a lot and gave up a lot of things for me to be where I am. I also like the way they raised me.

Q: Who do you think is winning the World Series?

The [Boston] Red Sox.

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SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR: Nick Cadena is second on the team with a .357 batting average. He is also tied for second in stolen bases with 11. **GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON**

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SPORTS

Baseball loses two out of three on road

By **XAVIER VILLARMARZO**
Sports Editor

The Golden Panthers lost two games in a three-game series at the University of New Orleans April 1-3.

The series marks the first conference road series for FIU this season. The team's record improved to 22-11 overall and 3-3 in Sun Belt Conference play.

"We gotta win on the road," said Coach Danny Price. "That's what's gonna separate us in the end."

Both teams scored a combined 66 runs and 84 hits in the offense-heavy series. FIU starting pitchers allowed a total of 21 earned runs.

NEW ORLEANS 10 FIU 9

Despite 2 homeruns – including a grand slam – by Junior Michael Lopez, the Golden Panthers blew a six-run lead late in the game to suffer the loss.

Senior starting pitcher David Asher (6-0) pitched seven innings, allowed five runs and ten hits, struck out five and walked none.

Senior closer Danny Hernandez was slated with the loss after he allowed the game-winning run in the one inning he pitched.

"Asher pitched well," Price said. "We just collapsed in the [bull pen]. There's not a whole



GRAND SLAM: Junior first baseman Michael Lopez went 2-for-3 with two homeruns and six RBI, including a grand slam, in FIU's game one loss to the University of New Orleans. **GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON**

lot to say about it. That took a lot of the guys."

Lopez went 2-for-3 with six RBI. Juniors Randy Youtsey and Bryan Pullin and freshman

Michael Jordan also had two hits each, as FIU collected 12 hits.

New Orleans jumped out to an early 3-0 lead until FIU scored two runs in the fourth

inning. Youtsey scored off an RBI groundout by senior Luis Rivera, and then senior Dennis Diaz reached on an error which allowed freshman Corey Lozano

to score.

FIU took a 7-3 lead after it added five more runs in the sixth inning. Jordan singled up the middle which allowed Youtsey to score again.

Then, Lopez hit his aforementioned grand slam over the right field wall.

The Golden Panthers entered the bottom of the eighth inning with a 9-3 lead after Lopez hit a two-run homerun in the top of the inning.

UNO then scored seven runs off three FIU pitchers – two off Asher, four off junior Frank Gonzalez and a final run off Hernandez.

New Orleans held on to the 10-9 lead in the ninth after it retired the FIU batters in order, two by strikeout.

NEW ORLEANS 12 FIU 5

In a game where FIU always trailed, starting pitcher Ammer Cabrera (4-3) allowed nine of New Orleans's 12 runs. The redshirt junior was given the loss after he pitched five and one-third innings, allowed 12 hits, walked four and struck out four.

"We just made some key mistakes in the ballgame," Price said.

Diaz and Pullin each went 3-for-5 with a run scored and had a combined three RBI.

See **BASEBALL** page 10

Championship game puts UNC back on top

COMMENTARY



By **NIKOLAY OREHOV**
Assistant Sports Editor

It's official. They did it. Cut down the nets and crown the Heels!

After earning the number one pre-season ranking in NCAA basketball, the North Carolina Tar Heels proved the voters right as they beat the University of Illinois Fighting Illini to win the NCAA title.

The game itself? Oh, it lived up to the high expectations that were associated with it.

It was number one versus number two, the first such championship in over 30 years.

The Illinois team came into the tournament as the number one overall team in the country, yet they were the underdogs in the title game.

It may seem odd at first, but the second



Since [legendary Head coach Dean] Smith's retirement in 1998, [UNC] had been on the rebound and had not been able to regain its dominance nor its program prestige.

best team in the country was no ordinary second best.

The Tar Heels were stacked this season. And if it hadn't happened this year, who knows how much longer Head coach Roy Williams would have had to wait for his first National Title.

This was definitely UNC's year from start to finish. On paper they were by far and away the best team talent-wise.

The Tar Heels came into the contest perceived as the more athletic and more talented team, while the Illini were viewed as a better team.

Illinois was even referred to as the team of destiny, specifically after the 15-point deficit they overcame with only 4:01 left in the game against Arizona in the Sweet 16.

But the magic finally ran out on a magnificent year, as Illinois finished the season with only two losses and compiled an overall record of 37-2.

As for the Tar Heels, it was a season to remember, as they finished 33-4 overall. After losing the season opener to the woeful Santa Clara College, UNC bounced back to win 14 consecutive games and eventually went on to win the regular season Atlantic Coast Conference title.

It was a long road to the promise land. First there was the injury to Raymond Felton, the team's star and only true point guard on the roster.

Then, there were uncertainties surrounding Rashad McCants, such as his dedication and willingness to sacrifice his individual skill and mentality for the sake of the team's success.

He later missed several games due to a stomach virus and learned that his mother was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Sean May was solid throughout the year and got even tougher as the season wore on.

It was not an easy task to accomplish. A couple of losses had the Tar Heels' fans questioning whether the team had what it took to win the school's first National Championship since 1993.

That 1993 team was coached by another legend, and maybe the biggest legend of college basketball, Dean Smith.

Since Smith's retirement in 1998, Carolina had been on the rebound and had not been able to regain its dominance nor its program prestige. But, they're finally back, and what a great feeling that is.

The Tar Heels persevered, just as they have on many other occasions during the season, placed in what was thought to be the toughest bracket.

The team was finally healthy and McCants finally bought into Coach Williams's system – all in time for the tournament and the title game.

So, as the Tar Heels lose several key players to either the NBA draft or graduation, the rebuilding process may once again be underway.

Except this time the progression will be much more pleasant and may even be considered a reloading period rather than a rebuilding period.

North Carolina basketball is officially back!