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Parking lots affected by Youth Fair

BY REUBEN PEREIRA
Staff Writer

With the arrival of the 55th Annual Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition, those commuting to the University Park campus are expected to experience heightened traffic levels and a harder time finding a parking spot.

The fair, which will take place from March 16 to April 2, is a highly anticipated event for the county and city of Miami, as well as a time of stress and inconvenience for some students, faculty and staff at FIU.

Junior Matthew Gonsalves not pleased about the upcoming fair.

“Parking is already a huge problem at FIU. It takes a long time to get a spot,” Gonsalves said. “But now that the fair is coming, it’s going to be worse. It’s just ridiculous.”

Bill Foster, director of FIU’s Parking and Traffic Department, said that he understands the plight of the students as well as faculty and staff members.

However, he stated that even though he knows that the traffic coming in and out if the fair is going to be inconvenient, students have to look at the situation from a different point of view.

“The fair is a huge benefit and means of exposure for the University and people need to have some kind of understanding,” he said. “Yes, it is an inconvenience, there is no doubt about that, but the University gets a lot of out of it and we need to be patient.”

Foster added that this year there will be one week less to worry about because the second week of the fair will be taking place during Spring Break.

“The benefit that we have this year is that most of the crowd comes in on the first day, which happens to be a Thursday, and then the following week happens to be spring break,” Foster said. “So we only have to deal with the last week of the festival as opposed to two weeks.”

Over the course of the last decade, the fair has collaborated with the University in organizing the parking scheme. Parking Lots Five and Six were originally built on

the grounds of the fair to create additional parking for patrons of the fair.

The county fair has also been a big supporter of FIU, donating more than \$3 million toward the construction of the Wertheim Performing Arts Center, which also partly falls under the county fair property.

During the fair, Lots Five and Six will be closed to fair patrons for separate reasons. Lot Five will be used by the fair to house the people who travel with carnivals from state to state and for the staging and preparation of various equipment used during the fair. Lot Six, on the other hand, will be open exclusively to students living on campus.

“We’re trying to help housing by keeping traffic away from their lots,” Foster said. “Lot Six has a couple of gates that the campus police department will guard during the course of the fair so that no one besides students get to park there.”

During the fair, Parking and Traffic will be more lenient toward students.

“I understand that the increase in traffic will cause more students to park in the garages but tickets will most likely not be given out during the tenure of the fair,” Foster said. “However, this doesn’t mean they can go out and violate the laws. It really depends on the violation. Some violations can’t go unnoticed.”

Students complain about the inconveniences of the parking situation.

“It’s during times like these I’m happy I don’t have a car,” said Sophomore Diana Carmichael.

“I remember last year, whenever my

See FAIR, page 2



NO PARKING: Parking Lot Five will be closed during the operation of the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition through April 9. Lot Six will be open only to housing students. The University Parking and Traffic department recommends parking in the Red Garage and the Panther Garage. **CHRIS CUTRO / THE BEACON**

Modeling club focuses on runway skills, print modeling

BY DIANNE DAWKINS
Contributing Writer

Mystique Modelz has taken center stage to give students a complete fashion report – something students should look out for.

Mystique Modelz is geared to helping models with or without experience improve his or her modeling skills and self-esteem as well.

“We represent beauty in different shapes and forms,” said senior Mfon Essiet, founder of Myztique Modelz. “Beauty is diverse and we want to show that.”

Currently, Myztique Modelz is the only club at FIU that focuses on the art of runway and print modeling, according to Essiet.



Slim Jeffrey, photographer

I try to focus on the best attributes for each model and accentuate those features. I will have them pose or arrange their face a certain way in order to bring out what is special about them.

All models, like Allyse Gibson a sophomore, possess a different style and walk.

“I’m shorter and runways usually call for models that are tall. Myztique gives me a chance to do both print and runway together,” Gibson said.

Essiet established Myztique Modelz last summer.

While there are many dance and sing-

ing organizations, Essiet saw a need for another type of performing art at the University.

“We had every type of entertainment at FIU except modeling,” Essiet said.

Essiet felt that the art of modeling was a necessary addition to the club scene at FIU.

Try-outs were held at the beginning of

the Fall semester.

About 55 students from the Biscayne Bay Campus and University Park attended.

The judges were composed of members of Myztique Modelz’s executive board.

Both genders were judged on his or her ability to walk, pose and respond to critique.

Judges also looked at how quickly the models were able to learn stage choreography.

“The designers are excited when they see that Mystique has male models,” said club member senior Rion Daley. “Male modeling is more competitive than female modeling.”

See MODELS, page 3

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • MARCH 13

SPC American Heritage Week Begins!
SPC Women’s Celebration: 11 a.m., WUC Panther Square (BBC)
SPC American Heritage Opening Ceremony: 12 p.m., GC Pit (UP)
Panther Rage Meeting: 4 p.m., GC 140 (UP)
SPC Concerts and American Heritage present American Coffeehouse: 6 p.m., Graham Center Starbucks Lounge (UP)

TUESDAY • MARCH 14

Campus Bible Fellowship Bible Study: 11 a.m., WUC 157 (BBC)
Health and Wellness Center Exposition: 4 p.m., Academic I Atrium Area (BBC)
Hearst Distinguished Lecture Series presents “Privacy, Terrorism and The Public’s Right to Know”: 6 p.m., WUC Ballroom (BBC)
Biscayne Bay Society Film Series: 6 p.m., Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre (BBC)
An Evening of Kurt Wiel, George Gershwin, and Popular Opera Arias: 7 p.m., Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre (BBC)
SPC American Heritage presents “Picnic on the Lawn”: 12 p.m., GC Lawn (UP)
SPC General Meeting: 3:30 p.m., GC 140 (UP)
SOC Meeting: 5:30 p.m., GC 150 (UP)
SPC American Heritage presents “Billy’s Hoedown Karaoke Night”: 7 p.m., Gracie’s Grill (UP)

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 15

Picnic Above the Green: 12:30 p.m., 2nd floor Academic 2 Balcony Area (BBC)
SPC Lecture Series presents Jasmine Guy: 7 p.m., WUC 245 (BBC)
SPC American Heritage presents “A Day at the Rodeo”: 12 p.m., GC Pit (UP)
SPC Films and American Heritage presents “Walk The Line” (Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon) “Dinner and a Movie: 8 p.m., GC Ballrooms (FREE Food catered by Shorty’s BBQ) (UP)
S.I.S. Rosebuds perform: 8 p.m., Everglades Hall Lounge (UP)
“Taking Back The Night”: 9 p.m., Women’s Center (GL 2200)

THURSDAY • MARCH 16

SOC General Meeting: 2:30 p.m., WUC 159 (BBC)
African New World Studies Women’s Film Festival: 7 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)
Biscayne Bay Writers on the Bay series: 8 p.m. WUC 245 (BBC)
Lyrical Vibz – On Point Poetry: 8 p.m., WUC 155 (BBC)
SPC American Heritage presents “Line Dancing”: 12 p.m., GC Pit (UP)
International Students Dinner: 7 p.m., Faculty Club Lounge (UP)

FRIDAY • MARCH 17

YMCA Gospel Night Out Concert: 8 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)
Film - The Unheralded: 7 p.m., The Wolfsonian (1001 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, FL)

SATURDAY • MARCH 18

Selections from Unseen Cinema – Early Avant-Garde film: 2 p.m., The Wolfsonian (1001 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, FL)

SUNDAY • MARCH 19

Baseball hosts Columbia: 1 p.m., University Park Baseball fields (Tickets - \$5 (Adults), \$3 (Seniors, Youth), Free (FIU students with ID) (UP)

– Compiled by Reuben Pereira

Two lots close during fair exposition

FAIR, from page 1

roommates and I would go to Publix, it would take a long time to get to Panther Hall,” she said. “I didn’t like how they would make the students go out of their way to accommodate the fair. It sure felt longer than just two weeks.”

The closure of Lots Five and Six to the general public causes traffic to filter into the other parking lots, which results in the

displacement of more than 400 vehicles.

However, since most of the major fair activities begin around 5 p.m., the traffic is relegated to the evening, when most students are done with their classes and thus; according to Foster, the problem isn’t as bad as it could have been had the fair been an all-day event.

Foster urges students, faculty and staff members to seek alternative parking

spots during the weeks of the fair, which he insisted were widely available across campus despite complaints from many students.


“We have spots in Lot Seven and the Panther Garage, which is located near the [Pharmed Arena],” Foster said. “Those lots are almost always empty. Yes, they are inconveniently placed and they will have to walk to their classes. But if they arrive early then they can avoid the hassle and

unnecessary stress.”

The Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition is the biggest fair in Florida and one of the largest fairs in the nation.

Each year the fair raises funds to support youth and adult achievement programs and awards over \$500,000 in scholarships, awards and premiums.

It is estimated that between 20,000 to 60,000 guests attend the fair daily.



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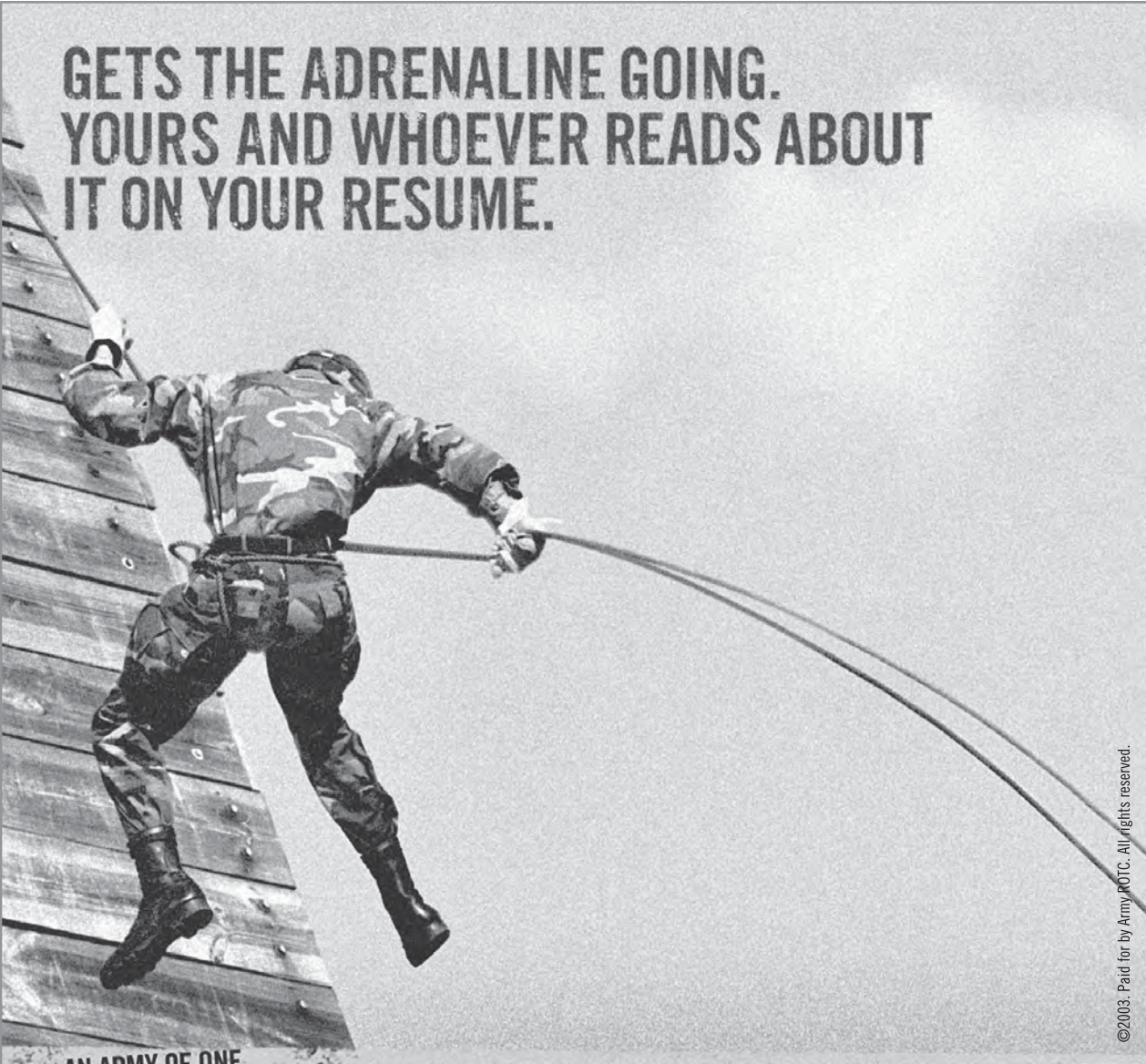
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Fields to head business journalism program

BY FALLAN M. THOMPSON
Staff Writer

The School of Journalism and Mass Communications has partnered with Gregg Fields – a 19-year veteran writer for *The Miami Herald* – to direct the newly created Master of Science degree track in business journalism.



FIELDS

“Business journalism requires certain [more] specific skills than regular journalism,” said Fields, a business and finance writer.

“Skills like understanding financial analysis, accounting statements and management theories.”

The new track is offered jointly by SJMC and the College of Business Administration. It combines courses of investigative journalism with basic business courses.

The business journalism track requires a total of 36 credit hours and can be completed in 20 months. Some classes will be available online, and the program begins this summer.

Fields believes the program is designed for the working journalist and part-time student.

“Everything in America is related to business,” Fields said. “Whether you want to cover health care, the arts, banking or politics, the first step is knowing how to follow the money.”

Fields holds a master’s degree in financial journalism from Columbia University and a master’s in business administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

“It’s what I’ve always done. My first by-line was in *The Wall Street Journal*,” Fields said.

Faculty members at SJMC are excited that Fields has decided to join the school.

“He will bring the expertise and credibility needed to make us one of the top business journalism programs in the nation,” said SJMC Dean Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver.

Fields is currently doing a fellowship in the Knight Bagghot program at Columbia University in New York.

An FIU search committee, headed by

Neil Reisner, contacted Fields through his advisor at Columbia about being the director of the new graduate program.

“The ad description was something like ‘expert in business journalism that doesn’t mind living and working in Miami.’ I thought, ‘this is me,’” Fields said.

Fields plans on teaching several classes while directing the program. Among them: An investigative financial journalism, which, according to Fields, would teach students how to research corporations.

“Corporations [as opposed to companies] generally have a greater ability to hide things, but you can get the story if you know how,” Fields said. “My boss

at *The Wall Street Journal* once told me ‘don’t let the facts get in the way of the story.’ You can have all the facts in the world but unless you tell the story right, no one is going there with you.”

Fields has already contacted local companies about getting guest speakers to FIU. He hopes that the new track will be popular with students.

“FIU hasn’t done as good a job in getting the word out about its programs,” Fields said. “FIU has programs among the best in the nation, including the journalism track. FIU is going places, and it’s very exciting to be a part of it.”

His fellowship ends in May and Fields is currently developing the courses for

the new program.

As the program director, Fields hopes to continue working at *The Miami Herald* doing guest columns and editing.

He will live in New York until the end of the fellowship, but will be returning to Miami full-time this summer, where he hopes to indulge in his love of water sports.

“I love scuba diving and outdoor sports. I was president of the Miami Beach Rowing Club,” Fields said.

Originally from Ohio, Fields has a home in North Miami Beach.

“I absolutely love South Florida and think it is one of the most exciting places,” he said.

ONE WORLD CELEBRATION



DRAGON DANCE: One World Celebration, a week-long event where various cultures were celebrated with food and dance from March 6-10. The event was sponsored by the Student Programming Council and International Student Scholar Services. Asian culture (above) was celebrated March 7. **CHRIS CUTRO/THE BEACON**

Myztique Modelz impress designers, students

From MODELS, page 1

In the end, only 20 female models and 15 male models made it.

Myztique members are photographed by sophomore Slim Jeffery. Jeffery is a freelance photographer who brings out the best in each model through his positive energy and original posing arrangements.

“I try to focus on the best attributes for each model and accentuate those features,” Jeffery said. “I will have them pose or arrange their face a certain way in order to bring out what is special about them.”

Models are photographed in realistic backgrounds such as campus classrooms and lounge areas. Myztique models are also photographed at Biscayne Bay and various Miami and Ft. Lauderdale beaches. The runway music and choreography is left up to Essiet.

“I like originality, so when we are coming up with the show the creativity flows out,” Essiet said. “I draw inspiration from everything I see around me.”

Essiet uses a variety of fashion categories in her shows, ranging from Afro-centric style clothing to professional business attire.

Myztique models exhibit clothes from many local designers who like to see their ideas hit the runway. Some of these designers include Beel Tisi Fashions, Designs by Immadelle, Kulture Klothes and Mendoza Mobile Fashions. All of the designers keep both the male and female models looking sharp and trendy for their fashion shoots and runway shows.

“I was impressed with how professional the Myztique models were,” said Sunnie Morrison of Mendoza Mobile Fashions. “It is can be difficult find male models who can fit into the variety sizes we offer, particularly the tuxedos.”

A variety of models is important to designers, according to Morrison.

Myztique Modelz held their first runway show this year Feb. 23.

“I thought the show was well put together, said senior Pedro Phillips. “The outfits were interesting and the choreography was great. I liked the way the models moved to the music.”

Additional information is available at www.mfonessiet.com or Modelz@fiu.edu.

Myztique Modelz will walk the runway in their second show of the semester April 10 in the Graham Center’s pit at 11 a.m at University Park.

OPINION

Harry Coleman Editor in Chief • Christopher Necuze Opinion Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student disagrees with comparison between Christianity and Scientology

I didn't know what to make out of Adrian Diaz's article "Scientology's beliefs as absurd as Christianity's" published in *The Beacon*, March 6. At first it was complete nonsense. After careful readings, it was still nonsense. The article lacks fundament and knowledge, revolving around a semi-ironic degree of "awe" that asserts nothing and gets nowhere. Witty remarks do not do any good to anyone. They just look plainly awful in descent journals.

As far as your title goes, what is absurd in Scientology or in Christianity? You compare Scientology with Christianity and, I'll quote: "It would be easy to dismiss Scientology as a cult populated solely by wackos." Can it be assumed, then, that Christianity (and easily extrapolating to Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, et al) is populated by wackos? Where is Aquinas, Luther, Kant, Descartes and the uncountable others? Your

article falls for ignorance and lame mockery, trying to mask itself behind incoherent, rambling sequences only fit in Ionesco's plays.

You also argue that resurrection and reincarnation "it's all rising from the dead." I'll not preach to the choir, but reincarnation is the cycle of the monad coming back in a new body, to the physical world to learn. Resurrection is just bringing someone from their deceased state, with the same body, ailments, etc.

It's easy to comment and make easy talk but your sarcasm is ineffective when you want to impress and elaborate pretentiously on superfluous information. I admire the right for your opinion; however, this doesn't mean you couldn't know more about your subjects. Do try to be a bit more illuminated next time.

- Adrian Mourin
Senior
English major

Ports debacle seems "close to prejudice"

In response to the article "Foreign companies running ports" (*The Beacon*: March 2, 2006), Christopher Necuze, the opinion editor, seems to be really misinformed about port operations and security in the U.S.

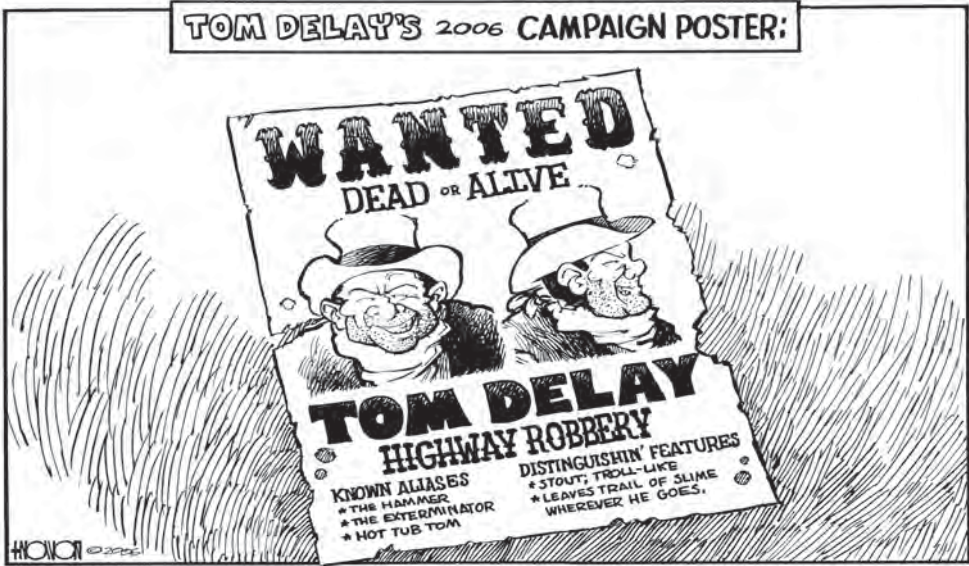
Since 9/11, United States ports have been under high oversight. For example, the Port of Miami, under county ownership and supervision, operates itself and its security with oversight from Federal Department of Law Enforcement, the Coast Guard, Custom and Border Protection and the local police. Despite these factors, Necuze continued to argue about a "foreign power in charge of our ports" and "Islamic fascism taking over U.S. port operations."

According to local investigative journalist Ike Seamans, who has been covering seaports for over 20 years, DP World (the Dubai firm)

would only be in "control of nothing but their own operations" and not port operations. (*Miami Today*: March 2, 2006) It seems that Necuze's "mistrust for Middle Eastern governments" has allowed him to ignore how real port operations work in the United States. Furthermore, it seems that the worst part of the situation, according to Necuze, was confessing that he disagrees with George W. Bush and so-called conservative ideals. Lord have mercy!

If I didn't know any better, Necuze's article actually treaded close to prejudice towards the Middle East. But, I do not have the courage to call it what conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh has said of this entire situation: racist.

- Paul Benavides
Freshman
Psychology major



THE BEACON | Editorial

Herald's motives questionable

Recent findings from a *Miami Herald* investigation showed that University President Modesto A. Maidique has a taste for traveling in style. *The Miami Herald* concluded that Maidique spent about \$80,000 in state money and \$60,000 in FIU's private foundation money for travel during the four-year period that it reviewed.

Looking at the numbers, the first thing that comes to mind is how on earth can someone spend \$140,000 on traveling expenses in a span of four years?

Here are just a few examples of *The Herald's* findings: A trip to Port St. Lucie during which Maidique chartered a private plane and rented a limousine

for a total cost of \$1,616; stays at The Plaza in New York, the St. Regis in Washington and the Ritz in Madrid; a \$6,700 four-day trip to Paris.

Maidique is not a celebrity like Tom Cruise to be spending like this.

If these findings make you outraged, rightfully so. From a man who complains about FIU's budget problems and who is always looking for people to contribute monetary donations toward the University, it seems somewhat hypocritical to use travel money so recklessly.

The public has a right to know where its money is going. Considering that Jesus Diaz Jr., *The Herald's* publisher, is on

the FIU Board of Directors, the timing of the article has to be questioned, considering that Maidique will find out if his much lobbied medical school proposal will be accepted by the Board of Governors March 23.

Also, although it does not excuse it, it is more or less a well known fact that many University presidents spend lavishly. However, it is certainly not a first-page story.

We take issue with this as it shows more than anything that Maidique might have been singled out. Even though this fact does not assuage our anger over his actions, it does lead us to wonder what *The Herald's* motives may have been.

Iranian threats worsen situation

BY CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
Opinion Editor

Who the hell does Iran think they are? As the nuclear situation between Tehran and the rest of the world heat up, the Iranian government has resorted to intimidation, as it finds itself backed into a corner.

"The United States has the power to cause harm and pain. But the United States is also susceptible to harm and pain. So if that is the path that the U.S. wishes to choose, let the ball roll."

Those words, spoken by Ali Asghar Soltanieh, chief Iranian delegate to the International Atomic Energy Agency, sent ripples through the international community. Not only is Tehran refusing to relinquish its nuclear program, it is now making threats.

The threatening remarks were said to be in reference to the oil industry, which is among the largest in the world.

I am the type of person who usually always goes for the underdog. In the World Series, Super Bowl and NBA Championships, I am the one you'll always find root-

ing for the team less likely to win.

Let's be honest here, shall we? I understand the modest approach to world policy 'thing' and that flaunting the fact that the United States is the world's only remaining superpower – the one with the world's strongest and most technologically advanced military – would be a very arrogant thing to do.

The only thing that the United States and its allies have threatened Iran with is a trip to U.N. Security Council – the harshest penalty of which, should Iran choose not to cooperate, would be economic sanctions. However, because the Security Council, and the U.N. in general, is incapable of doing anything productive, Iran will probably receive nothing more than an angry letter.

In contrast to the Iraq situation, in which the world was divided in its support for a military intervention, the world is unified in its efforts against Tehran. There is no doubt whether or not Iran has nuclear technology and there is no doubt that they seek nuclear weapons.

Iran, its officials and its presi-

dent, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, all claim that their uranium enrichment activities are only in efforts for nuclear power. However, when Russia offered to give Iran the necessary uranium they would need for production of nuclear energy – they refused. Anyone find this just a tad suspicious?

Now they are making threats. In the words of White House Spokesman, Scott McClellan, "Provocative statements and actions only further isolate Iran from the rest of the world."

The global community should seek diplomatic means – through the U.N. – to solve this issue, but should not, however, eliminate the possibility of military intervention should Iran fail to meet the demands of the U.N.

The Unites States and the world must not let itself be pushed around by a rogue country like Iran – or any other, for that matter. The world must stand strong, firm against a tyrant who seeks nuclear weapons and, not to mention, harbors terrorists. An underdog it may be, but for once I am not rooting for the underdog – I hope the underdog is destroyed.

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

Google self-censorship in China hypocritical

BY JONEL NURSE-CUPIDORE
Contributing Writer

In its latest strategy, Google has agreed to censor itself for the authorities in Beijing. This action by the leading search engine is somewhat ironic, because this happened soon after it resisted efforts by the U.S. Department of Justice to disclose data on what people were searching for.

China’s market of about 100 million Internet users is certainly a great incentive for Google to want to jump right in and offer their services. What might be the penalty for such an action?

How can Google, a company belonging to a free and democratic society, go along with the communist ideals of another? It is certainly mind-boggling to think of this relationship.

I see Google as a giant chameleon, changing, to match its surroundings. Indeed, the Internet company has adapted to the government’s control in China. The topics being censored include material about human rights, Tibet and other issues considered sensitive to the Chinese government.

What that translates to is what happened within minutes of the launch of the new site bearing China’s web suffix, ‘.cn.’ People, who were searching for information on banned sites, were directed to articles condemning that topic.

Don’t get me wrong, Google is the only search engine that I use consistently and I have no intentions of changing.

But the idea of me typing in information into the search bar and being directed to an article censuring my search is unfathomable.



GOOGLE THIS: Larry Page and Sergey Brin, co-founders of the internet search giant Google, founded the company in 1998 and have turned it into a successful corporation. **Courtesy Photo**

That reminds me of an e-mail I received a few months ago. Essentially, it said that I had been visiting illegal sites and that I should immediately contact someone named in the e-mail at a Washington, D.C. CIA number.

I remember breaking out in a sweat wondering which site I had visited and what was going to happen to me. I questioned if I would be fired from my job and all sorts of other foolish questions.

I tried dialing the D.C. phone number, but was unable to get through. Frantically, I pulled up the CIA website and found the following message:

“If you receive unsolicited e-mail appearing to be from the CIA, like the recent e-mail falsely attributed to our public affairs office, the message is fake. The CIA never sends unsolicited e-mails to the public. If you are not expecting an e-mail from us, delete it. Do not open any attachment; it may contain malicious code that could damage your computer or mail itself to people in your e-mail

address book.”

By this time, I began to breathe normal and wondered to myself how I could have even believed the e-mail; how my innocent searches of the dictionary or newspaper sites, or any thing else that I searched, could have triggered such a response.

It is great to enjoy this freedom and not have to worry about being censored and have my name added to a list. There is something so invasive about that idea, it makes me shudder.

In a statement to MSNBC, Google’s senior policy counsel, Andrew McLaughlin, defended the new site, *Google.cn*, as better serving Chinese customers.

“In deciding how best to approach the Chinese -or any-market, we must balance our commitments to satisfy the interests of users, expand access to information and respond to local conditions,” he said. This statement embodies the chameleon idea. We can only keep our eyes open and pay attention to what happens next.

Lifestyle choices lead to obesity

BY BRIAN O. GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

Ever walked down the street, or maybe through campus, and saw a man or woman that’s twice as large than anyone else around them? Did you want to laugh inside but felt you would offend this stranger?

Now, we have all seen fat people in our day, maybe everyday. But chances are, that person is obese. Obesity is described as “having a very high amount of body fat in relation to lean body mass, or Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 percent or higher,” according to the Center for Disease Control.

But the definition begins to differ with racial groups. Obesity has been a large topic in the United States and even the world, for years now. Many have claimed it as a growing epidemic that is affecting our children.

Cartoons and television have been using obesity for slapstick comedy for years now, but in reality, obesity is no laughing matter.

Excessive body weight opens up risks for many deadly diseases like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, sleep apnea and osteoarthritis to name a few. It is also considered a risk factor for certain cancers. When you read this and realize that half of Americans are overweight and a staggering 18 percent are obese, you begin to worry about the health issues of our country.

You can blame the fast food industry and the rise of the “Biggie Size” dynasty, or video games that brainwash the children into preferring a virtual reality playmate than their neighbor, but we don’t blame a gun in a murder case. There are two problems with the obese children of America: First, they prefer that lifestyle over any other and, secondly, their parents allow them to be accustomed to that lifestyle.

Others feel cozy with the excuse that it is genetics and they can not help it. They believe that obesity does not only risk other diseases, but it is a disease itself. These

people make me hope Darwin’s theory kicks in and natural selection begins to take place. To say you can’t help being fat is the ultimate sign of giving up. Don’t take my word for it, Carlos Cortes, a board certified doctor said in an interview with *The Beacon*, “You are not predetermined on your weight, genetics have nothing to do with it.”

This article can run on for pages on my argument that obesity is not a disease, but the fact is there is no argument that obesity is, in fact, a disease. While that makes my argument easier, it also renders it pointless. The fact is you’re eating more calories than you are burning a day.

I’m no doctor, but I sure can count. Subtract one donut plus a jog around the block equals a better body. Bet they didn’t teach you that in Algebra did they? I’m not your mother so I can’t tell you not to stop using that lame excuse on your weight. For those that want to do something about it, see you guys at the gym.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think that the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair will affect the parking situation at FIU?

- Yes – The parking situation here is bad as it is – it seems like it will only get worse.
- No – The University has made sufficient improvements to its parking facilities.
- I don’t care whether it gets worse or not. The Youth Fair is worth it.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER



Jason Wood: The 34-year-old waiter won the Southwest Florida regional finals of ‘Rock, Paper Scissors.’ Incidentally, that was how the Supreme Court decided Bush would be president in 2001.

LOSER



Mississippi: A bill running through the legislature in the state proposes that after June 30, the state does not have to make hunting incidents like getting eaten by a bear public record.

QUOTATIONATION

“In order to win the war on terror we have got to strengthen our friendships and relationships with moderate Arab countries in the Middle East.”

– **George W. Bush**, president of the United States, on the political storm caused over the possibility of a Dubai company handling security in U.S. ports.

“It is starting to attract those persons who were no longer in the labor force or were counted as not in the labor force.”

– **Richard Yamarone**, director of economic research at Argus research, on job growth and rising wages that have happened in the past month. Unemployment rates also rose but only as a result of people beginning to actively search for jobs again because of the promise of new jobs.

“The story here is not that they made a mistake in the scanning and scoring but that they seem to have no fail-safe to alert them directly and immediately of a mistake.”

– **Marilee Jones**, dean of admissions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on SAT scoring errors made by one of the largest companies in the standardized testing business.

“Your team practices and you prepare, but you never know what will happen on game day.”

– **Richard Zurek**, project scientist for NASA, on a seven month mission that will study Mars.

“People are sort of losing their grip.”

– **Gary Woodard**, associate director of the University of Arizona Center for Sustainability of Semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas, on people’s reaction to the dry spell in Phoenix, Az. It has not rained there for 141 days.

“Male modeling is more competitive than female modeling and Mystique helps us get the practice we need to work in the field.”

– **Rion Daley**, Myztique Models club member. Myztique Models will have their next show March 27.



A hard day's

Night



Sleep deprivation yields negative long-term consequences

BY YALEXA LEON
Contributing Writer

Is it possible that weak brain activity, weight gain, more than 30 percent of large truck accidents and a faster aging process can all be caused by the same factor? The answer is yes and it affects a great amount of college students – it's the continuous lack of sleep.

Many students love to sleep but think that they don't have time to get enough hours, while others believe that they'd rather be doing something more productive with him or her time.

Many also believe that stress is a factor of sleep deprivation as well.

"It may sometimes be caused by stress and students do come in for stress consultation for which [the Health and Wellness Center] have certain courses," said Jimena Vaillant, Health and Wellness center senior clerk.

Regardless of the reason for why many students aren't getting enough sleep, taking it for granted can have serious health outcomes in the long run.

"I'm not aware of a lot of the consequences of not getting enough sleep,

but when I don't sleep enough my body feels it," junior Cristina Guzman said. "It happens all the time during mid-terms and finals, where I often times go days with about five to six hours of sleep per night. If I do this for a couple of days, in the end, my body simply doesn't function the same. I feel exhausted and it even affects my mood."

One of the obvious reasons students attend college is to get an education. To reach this goal, the brain must retain information in certain subjects that are later tested on.

For those who have made sleep deprivation part of their busy schedules, the truth is that sooner or later it takes a toll on students' brains and academic performance.

A medical website, www.webmd.com, states that sleep deprivation "may have serious consequences both on performance and on the way your brain functions." It also states that research done on young people who took a word examination after staying awake for 35 hours showed that the part of the brain responsible for language had shut down.

Other studies have shown that the average number of hours people sleep per night has decreased from nine to seven and a half in recent years. This might sound like a good amount of hours, but continuous sleep deprivation may also speed up a person's aging process.

With the popularity that Botox has been enjoying lately, getting those wrinkles a bit earlier in life might not be of big importance to some. But aging also comes with chronic disorders, which may include diabetes and heart disease.

Many students don't sleep enough because of their busy lifestyles. Sleep deprivation can be caused by various factors. Faiza Charles, a wellness assistant at FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus Wellness Center, said she suffers from anxiety symptoms that corrupt her sleep at night.

"Whenever I'm worried about something or if I have an exam I get so anxious that I can't sleep," Charles said. "I also have trouble sleeping if I have a heavy meal before I go to bed."

As a student at FIU, she also knows

all too well about late night studying.

"I realized that I rather sleep than stay up all night and feel lousy during the exam the following day."

To deal with her anxiety and be able to rest at night, Faiza takes advantage of different courses that the University Wellness Center offers for free. At the courses she's even learned breathing techniques that help her relieve the stress that disturbs her sleep at night.

Yoga, pilates, meditation, ballet workout classes and nutrition consultants are all available assistance programs to help students lead a healthy life. A particular stress management program offered weekly by the Wellness Center, titled "Cloud 9," even includes free massages and game activities.

The National Sleep Foundation has categories for different types of sleep patterns that people can quiz themselves on through the web at www.sleepfoundation.org.

With the impact that sleep has on our bodies, figuring out which category you fall under might be a good way to find out what's triggering your sleeping problem in order to find a solution.

Fetish parties indulge unusual fantasies for students

BY BOBBY JOE BRACY
Staff Writer

When you walk into any fetish party, the atmosphere is intimidating at first: The persistent bass line of industrial music rattles the bones of the club, while the strobe lights throb like little mechanical organs around the room. Off by the bar, a handsome young couple pours hot wax from bar candles on each other. The dance floor,

ornamented with cages and sex swings, is shaking with bodies clad in leather, fishnet and outfits showing plenty of skin. It's not quite the orgy or sex fest many people might assume them to be, but the partygoers seem to be having plenty of fun anyway.

You've probably never heard of these events before: extravagant parties of leather, whips, cages and nipple pasties. Maybe you know someone who goes

to these "fetish parties" and it reminds you of that scene in the movie *Party Monster* where everyone is dancing seductively to electro clash and wearing macabre outfits. Everyone gets together under one roof to party the night away and rejoice in his or her collective kinkiness.

The most popular fetish parties are thrown by thefetishfactory.com; Fetish Factory has been hosting fetish parties each

month, a.k.a. the alter ego parties, for nearly a decade.

According to thefetishfactory.com the party has grown to be the largest monthly strict dress code fetish party in North America, with typical attendance of about 800 people each month.

Most people who don't go to fetish parties just don't feel comfortable going. A lot of stigma and taboo surrounds the topic of sex and fetish parties,

where sexuality is a prominent theme.

"I wouldn't go to one at the moment," said sophomore Matthew Fay. "I don't know much about them, so they seem dangerous and I would probably feel nervous and uncomfortable."

Others feel it goes against their moral or religious beliefs.

"I would never go to one

FINE ARTS ACTION



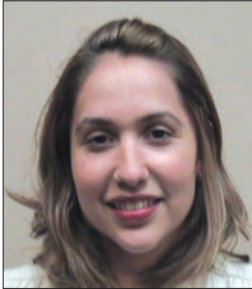
BBQ: The Fine Arts Student Association gathered for a barbecue March 13 and enjoyed food and games, such as basketball. Art department professor Bill Maguire (right) shot some hoops while FASA president David Tamargo (left) cooked burgers and hot dogs for all the guests.
CHRIS CUTRO/THE BEACON



LIFE!

5

FIVE QUESTIONS OF INTEREST



NAME:
XIMENA CORDERO

CURRENT POSITION:
MARKETING
MANAGER FOR
PANTHER DINING

- 1. WHY DID YOU GET OUT OF BED THIS MORNING?**
- The biggest and strongest force is because I have to work. Duty calls. I had to wake up because I have to come to work and help people at FIU. I am the Marketing Manager for Panther Dining; I have the biggest scope in my position because I speak to customers, serve the e-mail complaints and suggestions, comments ... I make sure everything is aligned for the Dining Service at FIU.
- 2. WHAT IS THE MOST EXCITING PART OF YOUR JOB?**
- The interaction with people. I love to talk. I enjoy talking to people. I meet everyone, students, faculty, employees – I’m always talking to my colleagues.
- 3. IF THERE IS A CELEBRITY THAT MAKES YOU TURN THE CHANNEL IMMEDIATELY, WHO IS IT AND WHY?**
- Paris Hilton. She just doesn’t do anything for me. She’s a celebrity with no purpose and no background. I wouldn’t even watch to see what trash comes out of her mouth.
- 4. IF YOU COULD SWITCH PLACES WITH ANYONE FROM THE PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?**
- I would probably want to be an artist. Toulouse Lautrec is one of my favorites. I’d love to have that drive; I love art. It’s hard to express yourself through art, but when you capture it like that – It’s just amazing. Toulouse or Picasso ... I love everything, from Mooshe to abstract, to pointillism ... Any medium is just great.
- 5. WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THIS YEAR’S OSCARS?**
- I think sometimes the Oscars are over-rated. It’s all about popularity. I love to watch to see who wins and all, but there are so many other movies and actors out there that don’t get enough recognition. I think the people who win aren’t always the most exceptional. But it’s fun to watch, to see what people are wearing. All of that.
- Compiled by Amanda Healy

Know an interesting professor? Does your friend have a cool campus job? Then recommend them for this section feature by e-mailing beaconlife@yahoo.com

Look for the Life! 5 feature every Monday issue.

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Underground party encourages a release of inhibitions

From FETISH, page 6

because I don't think it's right for people to be throwing their sexuality out there like that," said freshman Cristina Suarez.

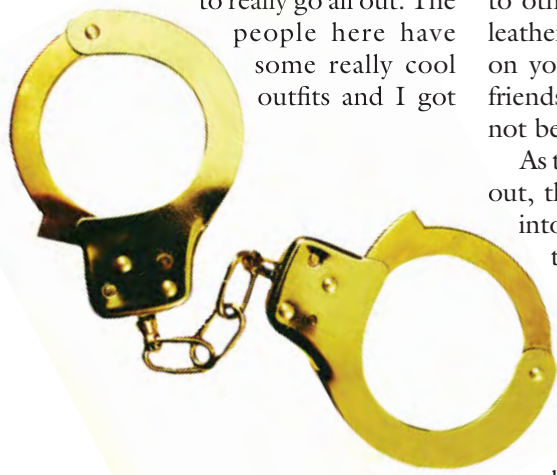
Are fetish parties really just all about sex and handcuffs? And who really goes to these parties anyway?

At times, it's not only those who like leather and lace, but also those with more extreme tastes.

"I go because it feels like Halloween," said senior Daniel Casal. "The people are a lot nicer and they're really cool people too ... and I like to lick lobsters."

Typically, the people who go to fetish parties could be anyone. Partiers come to explore their wilder sides and are encouraged to let go of their inhibitions; the dress code enforces that in a way.

"[The fetish parties] encourage you to really go all out. The people here have some really cool outfits and I got



to wear something I would never wear to any other party," said freshman Isabela Derocha, while tightening her leather jacket around her lace corset before a party.

No cameras are allowed, which helps keep the partygoers free from worrying about who might see them there.

"If I ran into my boss [at a fetish party], it'd be kind of awkward at first but then he would be dressed in leather too, so it would just be pretty funny and cool at the same time," Derocha said.

The fetish partiers go for all kinds of reasons. Some people like the atmosphere, others like the thrill of meeting a complete stranger who shares the same interest as you.

Ironically, by going to a party that commands certain attire, some find that it's possible to have a good time without worrying how crazy you might look to other people. You can strap on your leather boots, adjust the electrical tape on your nipples and go out with your friends. Like any scene, however, it may not be for everyone.

As the lights flip on and the music fades out, the dance floor slowly empties out into the parking lot. A sexy voice over the loudspeaker thanks everyone for coming and flyers are passed around to announce the date and location of the next fetish party as people leave the discotheque. In a month, it all starts over again.

For information on where and when the next local fetish party will take place, visit thefetishfactory.com.



WHIP IT GOOD: A fetish partygoer typically dresses how they wouldn't in everyday life. Popular clothing material includes rubber, latex, spandex and leather. **CHRIS CUTRO/THE BEACON**

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Simms, Lora, Villegas prove team has bright future

SEASON, from page 12

There were flashes of brilliance from new players, who may lead this team next season. But that is all there was – flashes. Maybe this is part of growing up.

Johwen Villegas showed us his 3-point range on occasion. Most of the time he seemed to lack offensive ability, which cost this struggling offensive team more than anything.

Though he may have had a good year shooting from beyond the arc, it seemed like, when he stepped inside the arc, he was allergic to the basket. Incredibly enough, for a guy who shot on 74 3-pointers at 38 percent, he was a lowly 50 percent from the free-throw line.

Freshman Elvis Lora was another conundrum. He too had flashes, like Villegas, of a player who could pick up the offensive

slack. A two-minute flicker in the season's final game proved that. Too little too late – the story of this team's season.

Inconsistency every night really cost this team. If one important player showed up, the other didn't. That's no way to win games, and they didn't when it counted – finishing with just four wins out of 14 Sun Belt matches.

The most common trend was their ability to

come out flat most nights, struggling to score points in the first 10 minutes of play and falling drastically behind by the first half or early on in the second half. On certain occasions, the team would make a big second half run, but most times it was too little too late.

When the games were close, however, it was the free throw shooting that let them down. FIU would miss free throws when it

counted as other teams would make them. Too many of this season's losses came apart at the end of the game, because of a lack of killer instinct – the ability to put teams away when the chance is given to you.

Fingers can be pointed in many directions here: The coaches or the inexperience of the players.

The offensive struggles of this team were what really spoiled everything.

The big thing coming into this season was that the team supposedly brought in scorers – one thing the team lacked in previous seasons. Even though we saw some signs of this, we were left wanting much, much more.

Next season it will be tough for this team to fill the void left by Almonte. They have a player in Kenny Simms who, with maturity, could be that next star.

Simms has shown he can score, rebound, and block shots – the three things you want from an ideal big man.

If Simms can find that maturity, if Lora can find the willingness to put the team on his scoring shoulders, and if Villegas can be that 3-point threat, this team has a bright future.

However, that's what was said last season about this year's team.

Maybe it's better to keep expectations low. It's harder to be disappointed.

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WBC's level playing field prevents USA dominance

WBC, from page 12

before the start of the regular season.

This has to be the most ridiculous excuse when you think of baseball players' recent injuries.

A little over two years ago, Aaron Boone nearly broke his knee in half playing a pickup basketball game; Jeff Kent hurt himself riding a motorcycle and I got my foot caught in the door and was not 100 percent for a critical pingpong match that awaited me.

The point is, injuries happen no matter what the situation. Besides, what are these players doing in March. Aren't they playing baseball?

USA Manager Buck Martinez has done a great job rotating his players and not overworking his pitchers so that injuries are very unlikely.

TIMING IS PERFECT

Another thing the richest babies in the world complained about was the timing for the event.

I feel the timing

could not have been any better.

There were only two different alternatives to holding the tournament during spring training. Either hosting it after the regular season, or throwing it right in the middle of the year.

After the wear and tear of 162 games and the playoffs, I doubt anybody would want to go overseas and start playing some more baseball.

A lot more players are injured at that point and if you think a lot of people backed out at this time, imagine how many would reject their invitations in October or November.

Having it during the middle of the season is also ludicrous. The league already holds an all-star game and besides, you're going to have Major League Baseball play eighty-some-odd games and then give it a month break?

What about the players that don't play, you're telling me they're going to go back home for 30 days and come back to be in full swing for the

most important part of the season!?

I think the only thing wrong with the timing is that this should have been done a long time ago.

Imagine Roberto Clemente getting a chance to represent Puerto Rico, Fernando Valenzuela playing for the Mexican team or Japanese home-run king Sadaharu Oh and Hank Aaron facing off.

The possibilities would have been endless then and they are mind boggling now.

AN EVEN PLAYING FIELD

Unlike in 1992 when USA basketball began using NBA players for its Olympic team, the World Baseball Classic is competitive because the USA baseball team will not be as dominant the Dream Team was over its opponents.

Sure, USA has a great team, but anybody from Venezuela to the Dominican Republic to the Canadian team that defeated USA 8-6 on March 8 can win this competition.

No longer does anything inside of me say this was a bad idea. If you want to know how much of an impact it has had, just ask the players that are taking part.

Chipper Jones told ESPN after he hit a homerun in an exhibition game, "it was the single greatest moment in my life to hit a homerun with the USA jersey on

and have Ken Griffey Jr. waiting for me at home plate."

"I've played in a lot of playoff games and a World Series and I have never been as nervous as I was [March 7]," said Boston Red Sox reliever Mike Timlin before USA's game against Mexico.

The owners and the players that shied away from it can try to dispel

it all they want but this thing actually means something. At a level it never has before, baseball is serving as the driving force to unite a world split by terrorism, government and religion.

The only common ground they share is the wonderful game of baseball, and for one special month this spring, it's all they'll need.



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Freshman believes team can reach College World Series

ALFONSO, from page 12

Even though some players have trouble adapting to their new team and its environment when they first arrive, the 5-10 freshman said it was very easy. However, there are still some aspects of the game that he is familiarizing himself with.

“The speed of the game is really fast and I’m still adjusting to it,” Alfonso said. “Everyday I learn something new.”

Price added, “He’s going to make freshman mistakes, but his consistency is getting better.”

Although many players get discouraged from some of their mistakes, Alfonso knows that he has his teammates and coaching staff to help him grow.

“They constantly push me to be a better player and to learn from my

mistakes,” Alfonso said.

Besides having his teammates and coaches persistently encourage him to improve, Alfonso also plays by professional advice given to him regarding the attitude toward the game.

“I talk to some of the guys in the minors and they say that you really have to love it [baseball] to stick with it for so long and to get far,” Alfonso said.

Giving his all in every game, Alfonso has the potential to become a very successful player.

“His work ethic is what makes him [the player that he is] and what will help him [become a better player],” Price said.

Although the season and his career have only started, Alfonso has set certain goals for himself that he hopes to attain prior to leaving FIU.

Becoming an overall better player is one of his main goals; however, playing in the postseason is what he is striving for.

“My main goal is to get far. I constantly think about the [College] World Series. I know we can definitely reach it.”



ALFONSO

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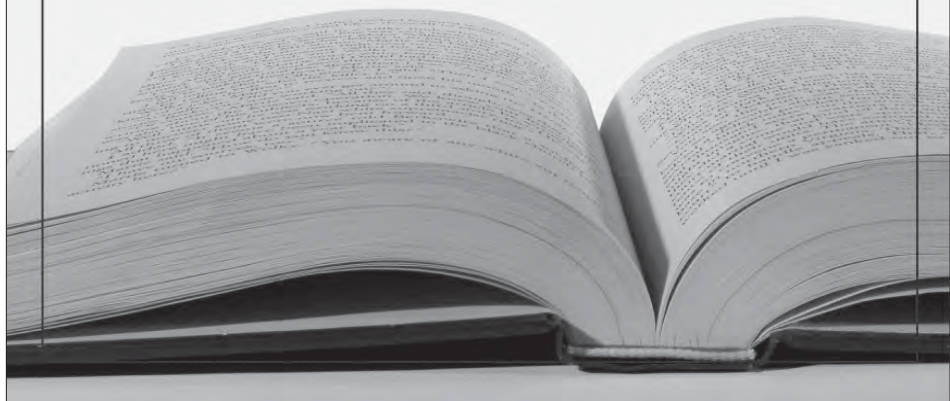
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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FRESHMAN SENSATION

First-year pressure does not disturb shortstop

BY JANNEL PALENZUELA
Contributing Writer

It's not often that a team is fortunate enough to acquire a freshman with the skills and potential to make a strong impact. FIU's recruitment of freshman shortstop Alex Alfonso is an exception.

Ever since he could remember, Alfonso knew that baseball was what he wanted to do. As he got older, his talent became more notable and his skills further developed. Perhaps such a development was the result of having a father who constantly pushed him to improve his game.

"He always took me to the field [to play]," Alfonso said.

In addition to earning four letters in baseball — and one in football — while he attended Christopher Columbus High School, Alfonso also put up impressive numbers. Over the four years of his high school career he batted .350 with five homeruns and 25 RBI. He earned Honorable Mention All-State Honors as a senior, and was a member of the Class 6A 2004 Championship team as a junior.

Even though Alfonso's numbers caught the attention of many in high school, he was not guaranteed a lot of playing time, much less a starting role as a collegiate athlete.

"I thought I was going to have to work a lot harder," Alfonso said.

One of Alfonso's main objectives would be to replace Luis Rivera, FIU's starting shortstop for the past three



CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES: Freshman shortstop Alex Alfonso [far right] celebrates with his teammates after the Golden Panthers score a run. **CHRIS CUTRO/THE BEACON**

seasons. Rivera finished the 2005 season with a .304 batting average, 25 RBI and was superb defensively.

"He definitely has some big shoes to fill, but he is coming along," said head coach Danny Price.

In his first 13 games played as the starting shortstop, Alfonso is batting .250 with 4 RBI and one homerun. He also has the second highest on-base percentage at .457.

Not only can he play defense — 34

assists and four double-plays as of March 10 — but he comes through in clutch situations. Alfonso has proven that the paradigm in which rookies crack under pressure should be re-considered. The most recent example is his two-out RBI hit in the 10th inning off of Michigan State reliever Mike Monterrey, which helped FIU seal a come-from-behind victory March 7.

See **ALFONSO**, page 11

Men's team fails to meet expectations

COMMENTARY



BY ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

Having followed the men's basketball team all season, their 20-point first round loss to New Orleans in the Sun Belt Conference tournament was no real surprise.

In what started out as a very exciting season, with the Sun Belt Conference coaches picking FIU to finish second in the division, the Golden Panthers plummeted in December and never really recovered their confidence.

The Dec. 8 home win against first-year Big East member South Florida was the highlight of the season. A season that saw them win just eight games and lose 20 — one more victory than USF, who played in arguably the nation's toughest conference.

Though some may have other reasons for this team's struggles, my belief is that their underachievement can be tracked through consistent trends night in and night out.

For starters, the team's reliance on Ivan Almonte proved to be head coach Sergio Rouco's biggest flaw. Any coach will tell you, you need two guys to win games. I understand that this team was built around Almonte, but no one can expect him to carry the team on his back for 40 minutes every night. He's not a scorer; he's a rebounder.

Though at times it seemed as though someone else might fill that role, it never happened.

The year's biggest disappointment had to be Ismael N'Diaye. The senior, who made clutch shots and proved he could be that key second option last season, never recovered from injury following last year and was not the same player this season.

Some may say these things happen and someone else will be there to fill the void. Nope, not on this team, no one planned for that. Because of N'Diaye's struggles, the team sputtered many times offensively, even seeming lost, unable to run plays and consequently falling apart.

An argument could be made as to how anyone can expect to succeed with so many new players (FIU carried over only five from last season), but shouldn't that be part of building a program? Shouldn't those players fit the role automatically? I'm sure they brought in players by promising them playing time in their first year.

So what happened?

See **SEASON**, page 9

World Baseball Classic great for everyone

COMMENTARY



BY ALDEN GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

I must admit, when the proposal for a worldwide baseball tournament featuring Major League Baseball players joining their respective countries in March came out, I was a bit skeptical. Then again, anything that MLB Commissioner Bud Selig draws up brings out the cynic within me.

However, like the players, once it began and fans decorated stadiums all over the world with painted faces and flags waving, I was sucked into the magic the World Baseball Classic brings.

I'm sure even New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, who hollered like nobody else about the wrongness of the tournament, must've gotten chills when he saw his Yankee players take the field with USA across

their chest.

ESPN analyst and former Cubs pitcher Rick Sutcliffe was brought to the team to throw batting practice and work with pitchers. Listening to him talk in the booth during the March 7 game against Mexico must have been like hearing Lewis and Clark talk about their journeys of the West.

On one particular incident, he walked into the clubhouse where players were having breakfast and as he turned his head, there were Alex Rodriguez and Jason Varitek sitting beside each other.

Just two years ago, Rodriguez had the Red Sox catcher in a headlock to try to kill him, these days the only headlock he gets is for the occasional noogie.

Not longer are these players sepa-

rated by MLB rivalries. They're part of something bigger and only those that are taking part can truly capture it.

In an era bombarded with steroid rants, off-field accusations and all the other things a professional sport dominated by money can bring, the World Baseball Classic brings a diversion from the evil in baseball and funnels it back to its purest form, which represents a true joy for the game.

INJURIES NOT AN EXCUSE

This spring, many players and owners had negative views on the tournament

because of the possibility of injury. They claimed players were responsible for the MLB teams they played for and could not run the risk of getting hurt

See **WBC**, page 10



IN THERE: Dominican Republic's Jose Reyes slides safely into second base as Italy's Frank Menechino drops the ball. **KRT CAMPUS PHOTO**