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The Beacon, September 11, 2006

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THE BEACON

The Student Newspaper of Florida International University

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September 11, 2006

THE COLA WARS



CHRIS CUTRO/THE BEACON

THE BIG GULP: Casey Schroer, junior, drinks a Pepsi in the Graham Center. After five years of using Coca-Cola Co. as a vendor, FIU may switch to Pepsi. **SEE PAGE 3 FOR STORY.**

Graham Center hosts 9/11 event

REUBEN PEREIRA
Asst. News Director

“Whether you were watching it on TV or had family involved, that day forever changed the lives of people around the world,” said Vanessa Vazquez, coordinator of Administrative Services.

To commemorate the fifth anniversary of 9/11, the Graham University Center is organizing a series of events today in memory of those who lost their lives on the day. Among the events planned are performances by a member of the FIU Marching Band, a presentation by the National Guard, a History Channel documentary and a candlelight ceremony.

“The event is meant to look back upon the events of 9/11 and those who died,” said Student Union Committee Chairman Michael Jadoo. “It is also an event to honor those working in the FIU services.”

The events will begin at 8:30 a.m., with the distribution of flags and the half-mast ceremony. The FIU Marching Band will perform the National Anthem at 9 p.m., which will be followed by a trumpet solo by FIU marching band member Cristian Escobar.

The afternoon’s main events will start at 12:15 p.m., where Jadoo will deliver the opening remarks

and officially open the ceremony. FIU ROTC Cadet Enrollment Officer Major Wally Gallart will then lead the FIU Army ROTC in a Color Guard presentation.

After readings and prayers by the multi-faith council, Vice President of Student Affairs Rosa Jones will hand out recognitions to the Department of Public Safety, the Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Department, the Department of Military Sciences and the volunteers from the Alternative Spring Break 9/11 service site.

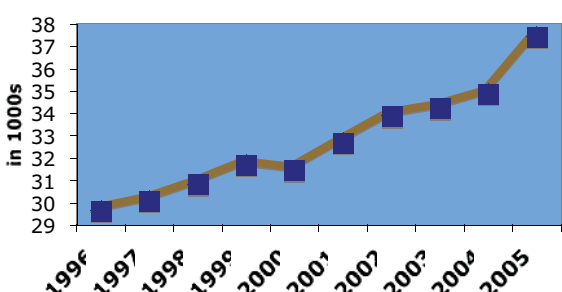
“We wanted to make sure to recognize those who are currently serving in the army, the police, the firemen and the students who volunteered,” Vazquez said.

The ceremony is expected to conclude with a candle ceremony and a moment of silence at 1 p.m. The candlelight ceremony will be a memento to remember how iconic that day was, according to Vazquez.

The participants of the ceremony will then be directed to GC 140 where they can watch “First Response,” a History Channel 9/11 documentary, which will be followed by a panel discussion with Religious Studies professors Daniel Alvarez, Aisha Musa, and committee religious leaders.

University enrollment increases

FIU Student Enrollment
1996 - 2005



IAN NATHANIEL COHEN
Staff Writer

When freshman Asad Malik was thinking about his college career, he didn’t think about Harvard, Yale or Columbia. Instead, Malik, like thousands of other students, decided upon FIU.

“I chose FIU because I like the city of Miami and my dad graduated from FIU, so there’s a little bloodline there,” said Malik, who is originally from Jacksonville. Malik is part of the more than

40,000 students attending FIU this semester, and the University is once again showing strong and rising enrollment numbers.

“The high enrollment rates affect the University in a positive way,” said Larry Lunsford, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs. “It increases the University’s visibility and the students that graduate become alumni and are supportive of the University.”

Although official enrollment numbers for the Fall 2006 semester have not yet been compiled, the available information indicates another hike in undergraduate and graduate students.

According to the Office of Plan-

ning and Institutional Effectiveness report, FIU accepted 31,199 undergraduate students and 5,732 graduate students; a total of 37,326 were enrolled at the beginning of the Fall semester.

Data for international students, unclassified students and University Park/Biscayne Bay Campus allocation is not available at this time.

“The growth can be attributed to better national and international reputation,” Lunsford said. “The University becoming known nationally and internationally attracted people who had never previously heard of FIU. When your programs are ranked nationally, people read about the program; [if] they want to major in that particular field, they start looking at the institution.”

As in 2005, approximately 57 percent of those students are female and 43 percent male.

Eighty-two percent attend UP, and about 20 percent attend BBC.

ENROLLMENT, page 2

False fire alarms disrupt classes

REUBEN PEREIRA
Asst. News Director

As freshman Vignesh Doraiswamy sat in his ENC 1101 English Composition class, the last thing he expected was the loud ringing of the fire alarm. Within seconds, his class had to evacuate into the halls of the Graham Center in University Park.

“We all had to leave class and stand outside. Fifteen minutes into class, the alarm went off and we had to evacuate,”

Doraiswamy said.

Doraiswamy was affected by a fire alarm at least two more times later on in the semester.

Like Doraiswamy, many students attending classes in the GC have had their classes interrupted since the summer of 2005 because of a series of false fire alarms.

The alarm had been triggered because of the construction during the

ALARMS, page 2

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • SEPTEMBER 11

9/11 Memorial Ceremony: 11:20 a.m. (GC Pit)
9/11 Documentary – “First Response” followed by Discussion: 1 p.m., (GC 140)
Panther Rage Meeting: 4 p.m., (GC 150)
RESPECT Movie and Discussion “A History of Violence”: 6 p.m., (GC 243)
The Salsa Kings: 7:30 p.m., (GC Atrium)
FIU College Democrats present “Syriana”: 9 p.m., (GC 140)

TUESDAY • SEPTEMBER 12

SPC Concerts presents Two Band Tuesdays: 12 noon, (Gracie’s Grill)
SOC General Meeting: 5: 30 p.m., (GC 150)
SPC Karaoke Night: 7 p.m., (Gracie’s Grill)
The Salsa Kings: 7:30 p.m., (GC Atrium)

WEDNESDAY • SEPTEMBER 13

Women Rock the Vote: 11 a.m., GC 140
SGA General Meeting: 4 p.m., GC 150
The Salsa Kings: 7:30 p.m., (GC Atrium)
SPC Comedy presents Steve Trevino and the Miami Improv’s Finest: 8 p.m., (GC Ball-rooms)

THURSDAY • SEPTEMBER 14

Inter-Fraternity Council Bid Day
The Salsa Kings: 7:30 p.m., (GC Atrium)
GSA Gradskeller: 8:30 p.m., (Gracie’s Grill)

FRIDAY • SEPTEMBER 15

Golden Panthers Men’s Soccer hosts Illinois-Chicago: 7 p.m., University Park Soccer field (Admission - \$5 (Adults), \$3 (Seniors, youth), Free (FIU Students with ID))
SPC Films presents “Thank You For Smoking: 7 p.m., 10 p.m. (GC 140)

SATURDAY • SEPTEMBER 16

FIU Golden Panthers Football: 6 p.m., FIU Football Stadium
Follow the Roar: 3 p.m. Housing Quad
SPC Films presents “Thank You For Smoking”: 6 p.m., University Park Towers Lounge

SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 17

Golden Panther women’s soccer team hosts Mount St. Mary’s: 12 p.m., University Park Soccer Field (Admission - \$5 (Adult), \$3 (Senior, Youth), Free (FIU Students with ID))
Golden Panthers Men’s Soccer hosts Mercer: 1 p.m., University Park Soccer Field (Admission - \$5 (Adult), \$3 (Senior, Youth), Free (FIU Students with ID))
Men’s Soccer hosts Central Connecticut: 2:30 p.m., University Park Soccer Field University Park Soccer Field (Admission - \$5 (Adult), \$3 (Senior, Youth), Free (FIU Students with ID))

– Compiled by Reuben Pereira

Renovations trigger fire alarms

ALARMS, page 1

renovation and expansion of the food court and Atrium. According to executive director Ruth Hamilton, the false alarm went off in three waves over the summer. The first wave of alarms were during the breaking and rebuilding of the food court.

“During the remodeling of the food courts, it was unpredictable when the alarms would go off,” Hamilton said.

According to Carlos Aspillaga, senior project manager of facilities management, the cutting of the slabs in the concrete created a lot of dust that routinely triggered the alarm.

“We were cutting the slabs of the floor in many places including Pollo Tropical and Burger King,” Aspillaga said. “The dust created from this caused the alarms to go off.”

The second wave of alarms was when the new equipment in the food court had to be connected to the building’s gas system, according to Hamilton.

“Whenever the new ovens and machines had to be connected to the University’s current gas system, the alarms went off,” Hamilton said. “However, we



CHRIS CUTRO/THE BEACON

RRRING!!!: False alarms, that may have been triggered by the Graham Center Food Court construction, disrupted classes and students were forced to evacuate.

tried to work after 7 p.m. and on weekends as much as we could to avoid disrupting classes.”

According to Aspillaga, the third wave of fire alarms went off a week before the Fall semester because Fire Marshal Tom Morz was testing out all the fire systems of the food court.

“We were making final inspections on all the restaurants opening in the Fall,” Aspillaga said. “The marshal double checked everything personally and made sure all the equipment complied with the requirements.”

Betty Wright, senior secretary of Campus Life didn’t mind the alarms but did admit being a little annoyed.

“The alarms didn’t bother me because it’s a necessary procedure,” Wright said. “Yes, it’s annoying, but it’s still important. I’d rather be safe and get out than

stay inside and ignore it.”

Similarly, Doraiswamy didn’t have a problem with the alarms because he got ten extra minutes of free time but added that he didn’t like that no one knew what was going on.

“The professor had already begun his lecture when the alarm went off,” Doraiswamy said. “No one knew where to go and what was happening when the alarms went off.”

Hamilton assured that now that the Fall semester has started and the food court is complete, there wouldn’t be any more alarms and interruptions of classes.

“There hasn’t been a alarm in the past week and there isn’t any reason to believe that there’ll be another false alarm,” Hamilton said. “If you hear an alarm, then that would be the real thing and not a drill.”

University to build new facilities

ENROLLMENT, page 1

Throughout the University’s history, FIU has consistently shown a strong growth in its numbers of enrolled students.

In Fall 2005, the official semester headcount for undergraduate students totaled 28,914; graduate students totaled 5,416 and unclassified students 3,094.

The semester total was 37,424.

“Local people are becoming better aware of FIU through their high school guidance counselors, letting them know that you’ve got an excellent school right here in your backyard, and you don’t have to leave home. A vast majority of FIU students are local,” Lunsford said.

As the number of students continues to rise,

Larry Lunsford, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs

Local people are becoming better aware of FIU... letting them know that you’ve got an excellent school right here in your backyard, and you don’t have to leave home.”

Lunsford said that “the school’s grown and made more room for more students: building more buildings, attracting more faculty and a better quality faculty.”

Among these new buildings are facilities to house old and existing programs at FIU, such as the Marine Biology building at BBC, two Life Sciences buildings, the new College of Law building at UP and a Graduate School of Business building, currently under construction.

“We continue to build more academic space as the number continues to grow,” Lunsford said.

Due to class add/drops and continued enrollment throughout the semester, the enrollment numbers will change.

By the time Malik earns his bachelor’s degree, FIU may have a medical school and thousands more students.

The school is tentatively scheduled to open in the fall of 2008.

“I’ll hopefully get into medical school. I want to be a doctor - an orthopedist, or something like that,” Malik said.

For other first-year students, like Julie Timon, staying close to home and sparing financial hardship was what lured her

to FIU.

“I was going to go out-of-state, but I wasn’t sure if I was ready yet,” said Timon, who plans to study international relations. “Also, I have Bright Futures in Florida, so I thought it was better for my parents to save money.”

In terms of expectations for future growth, Lunsford said, “We’ll continue to grow, because we have to meet our obligation to educate our students, especially those graduating from Florida high schools. I think that’s part of our community mission as well - to educate local students.”

NEWS NEEDS YOU!

The Beacon is alway’s looking for dedicated staff members.

Apply in GC 210

Pepsi may become University’s new soda vendor

BEN BADGER JR.
Staff Writer

In 2001, the Coca-Cola signed an exclusive 10-year contract with FIU, which states that the only beverages that will be sold on campus will be Coca-Cola products. However, things may be about to change in favor of the Pepsi Corporation. When Coca-Cola signed the contract with FIU, the contract had a five-year renewal clause, meaning after five years, FIU could look for someone else to provide beverages on campus if they are dissatisfied with the service.

When Coca-Cola outbid Pepsi five years ago they added an exclusivity clause to the contract, meaning that only Coke can sell beverages on campus. The five years are up and FIU has been searching the market. “Every year Coke hires one or two students to make sure we are fulfilling our part of the contract,” said Felicia Townsend, Director of Business Services. Adding the clause to the contract also meant that Coke would have to pay FIU an increased amount. Townsend is currently in the process of prepar-

ing to send out a notice that FIU is in the market for a new vendor. While no bids have been received, Townsend said that there would really only be two competitors: Coca-Cola and Pepsi. Townsend also said that the selection process would remain neutral. However, Wolfgang Acevedo, Student Government Association Student Services Chair, alluded that Pepsi is being leaned towards in an interview, meaning the selection process may not be as unbiased as intended. Among members of a committee made up of faculty, staff, Business

Services and SGA members will cast a vote over the switch. Each group has a vote. However the vote is not the final word of the decision process, rather the decision by this committee is taken to the executive council for approval, a decision that is usually upheld, according to Townsend. Only if the executive council strongly believes going against the decision will they overturn it. “We are looking for what’s best for students,” said Townsend. This guiding principle is supposed to help the committee remained unbiased.

In the process of selecting the better bid from Coke or Pepsi, the council chaired by Townsend will look at several key aspects of a bid. One who can give the best prices for students. Also, details such as maintenance and student scholarships could be the key point in the council’s choice to switch. More importantly, would be the percentage return FIU would receive from every product sold. FIU currently receives a percentage of every Coke product sold on campus. A factor such as that could easily sway the council. “FIU was an unofficially Pepsi exclu-

sive school before we switched to Coke,” said Townsend. Townsend also indicated free product could also have some sway over her committee. “Coke currently gives us 100 cases of product a year to give out to students as we see fit,” said Townsend. Any student organization can request the free soda for events at the Office of Business’ website, <http://obs.fiu.edu>. “Students are limited to receiving 10 cases and if their event has any fee associated with it, it is not likely they will be approved to receive the free product,” said Townsend.

TAKING A CUE



EDDIE ZENG/THE BEACON

TAKING AIM: Trickshot player “Fast Larry” Guninger demonstrates a sophisticated trick shot to students at the Porter Davis Game Room on Sept. 6. Guninger performed at FIU on Sept. 6 and 7.

NEWSFLASH

FIU

SGA to host Parking and Traffic forum

The SGA-UP Student Services Committee will be hosting a public forum for students to voice their parking and traffic concerns with the Director of the Parking and Transportation Department, Bill Foster. Among some issues up for discussion are parking tickets, appeals and shuttle bus services. The forum is scheduled to take place at 1 p.m. Sept. 13 in the Graham Center 140.

NATIONAL

Government rejects dental filling report

Government health advisors rejected a federal report that concluded dental fillings used by millions of patients are safe. Instead advisors are saying further study of the mercury-laden amalgam is required. However, the joint panel of Food and Drug Administration advisors did not declare the “silver fillings” unsafe. But in a 13 to 7 vote Thursday, the advisors said the federal report didn’t objectively and clearly present the current state of knowledge about the fillings.

-Compiled by Betsy Martinez from Beacon staff and wire reports

SGA notes

For the first time in three years, SGC-UP held their weekly meeting in the cafeteria of the Engineering Campus, located at Flagler and 8th Street. In a resolution (HR 06-05) passed during a Monday House Meeting, representatives approved a BBQ for the Engineering Campus, which does not have any Welcome Week events. As is tradition, the first meeting of the semester was scheduled to be held in the GC Pit. However, it was cancelled due to Ernesto.

Resolution 06-06 was passed. Student organization will now need to apply to ‘window paint’ in GC, a form of advertising. “If you look now, you can see remains from over a year and half ago,” remarked a Student Government Representative.

Rolie Marcet, Architecture Rep, and Jose Torres, CHUA Rep, were absent from the meeting.

No legislation was passed during the summer, though Judicial Board Chairperson, Katie Cubbons, hinted at a massive constitutional review once her Board is approved by the Reps.

SGA meetings are traditionally held every Wednesday at 4 p.m. in GC 150. Want to find out more information? Visit <http://www.fiu.edu/~sga>

-Compiled by Angelina Troff, Beacon Staff.



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EASY RIDER



BETSY MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

THE BULL BY THE HORNS: Student Government Association President Camilo Silva rides a mechanical bull during one of BBC's Welcome Week events Sept. 6.

Library exhibits Haitian project

SAMUEL HYPOLITE
Contributing Writer

The new Caribbean Studies Certificate programs offered at Biscayne Bay Campus introduces students to the appreciation of African and Caribbean culture around the campus.

One of the program's presentations was the "Haiti in Miami" project presented by students of professor Veronique Helenon's Haitian History class that was taught summer B this past summer.

The main purpose of this course was to examine the history of Haiti from pre-Columbian times up to the present day.

Students had to pay close attention to Haitian culture on both the island and the Diaspora, a term that refers to the scattering of people from their original homeland.

The student's final project was exhibited in the BBC Library during the end of the summer B term and will remain during the beginning of the fall semester.

According to Steve Switzer, access services librarian for the department of bibliographic content, the presentation has been greatly appreciated by students and other people who visit the library.

"One of the class projects was a visual introduction to contemporary Haitian art," said Switzer.

"This element of the Library display attracted a substantial amount of attention since Haitian artists are becoming more recognized and collectible now," he said.

"Not only was the display subject to attention because of its visual arts, it served as a source of information to people who read information about Haitian journey in the world history," he said.

Students like Yvsuf Rathore found the presentation very useful to teach people about Haitian values.

"The presentation was pretty informative and clears up a lot of the misconceptions people might have about Haitian culture," said Rathore, sophomore and chemistry major.

The presentation also portrayed the social influence of American culture on Haitians who live in the U.S. especially in Miami.

According to Helenon, some of these harmless influences are due to psychological factors.

"Most of the people who assimilate into American culture portrayed in my student's presentation were often due to a personal identity search," said Helenon.

"The way people interpreted Haitian culture and their primary conception about Haitians are important aspects to take into consideration when analyzing why some Haitians who immigrate to Florida tend to value other cultures more than theirs."

WUC sponsors essay contest

JEMELLE TUCKER
Contributing Writer

With the high cost of textbooks, and other collegiate expenses, some students may be looking for budgetary alternatives.

The Wolfe University Center, which holds the majority of student activities located at FIU's Biscayne Bay campus, is hosting an essay contest in conjunction with the kick-off of its 2006-2007 year theme "Expanding Walls and Horizons."

With money provided by WUC's funds, winners will receive a gift bag for first, second and third place, and \$150, \$75, \$50 bookstore scholarships respectively.

Although the WUC contest uses various themes each year, this is the first year they will be using the essay format.

"Last year we held a photography contest, but we wanted to change things a bit and try something new," said Vivian Perez, assistant director of Marketing and Guest Relations at the WUC.

The basic idea for the essay is to give a personal testimony or belief on how FIU, its diversity or a student's involvement in extra-curricular activities, has



Vivian Perez, Assistant Director of Marketing and Guest Relations

Last year we held a photography contest, but we wanted to change things a bit and try something new.

helped widen walls or horizons.

Despite the fact that the WUC is located on BBC, the competition is open to all FIU students regardless of campus selection, but not open to members of the community or faculty.

All essays will be reviewed and assessed by a panel of judges, which will include students and faculty members who will then contact the winners via telephone or e-mail.

According to Perez, students can expect surprises during the celebration, though she would not comment on the specifics.

Prizes will be awarded at the ceremony for the kick-off in Panther Square at 11:00 a.m. on Sept. 19.

All applications and essays must be turned in by Sept. 13 at 5:00 p.m. in order to be fully reviewed.

All submissions must include the student's name and contact information.

A one page essay is required for

entrance in the contest and can be sent to Perez at her university email, perezv@fiu.edu by the deadline.

"I think a lot of students are too busy with classes or other things," said Natalie Sious, junior.

Michael Foley, freshman, thinks talent may also have something to do with a student's willingness to participate in the event..

"Others might not want to write the essay because they do not like to write," Foley said.

However, Foley thinks the awards should be perfect initiatives for anyone at BBC.

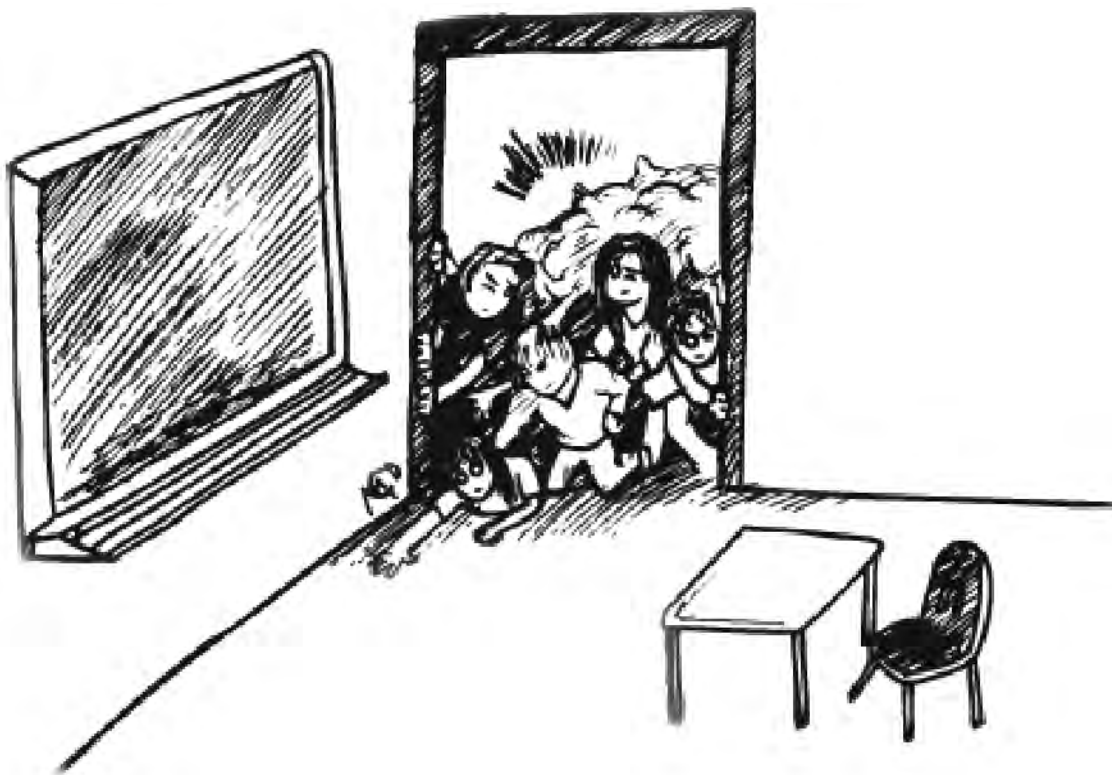
"The prizes are pretty good so I think I would enter," said Foley.

For more information, students can log on to the schools website at <http://www.fiu.edu/~bbc/Contest.htm> or contact the information desk in the front of WUC between operation hours.

OPINION

C. Joel Marino Editor in Chief • Christopher Necuze Production Manager • Jose de Wit Opinion Editor

Students blitz for registration



ROQUE CORONA
Staff Writer

Registration for the 2007 Spring semester will begin Nov. 11, giving rise to that haunting question that burns in the minds of every FIU student before each registration period starts: Will I secure a spot in the classes my major requires?

As a student at FIU, you've most likely encountered difficulties in registering for your courses at some point during your academic career.

A shortage of available classes and open sections, along with the administration's failure to help students left without a spot in the courses required by their program, make the registration process a trial for students. This problem must be addressed in order to satisfy the needs of FIU students.

It's a scene that almost every student has lived through: you're sitting comfortably at home in front of your computer, clutching the schedule of courses you need to take and waiting for your registration appointment to begin.

Once the appointment starts, you race through PantherSoft to get the classes you need. It's a competition among classmates; a vicious fight to get into the one available section for your required course, that elusive section with the absurdly limited amount of slots. You type in the course number, and a message appears that is all too familiar for FIU students: "The search returns no results that match the criteria specified."

This is a problem that students face every semester, especially in the Fall and Spring semesters. During registration for the Fall 2006 semester, one student was left crying in the offices of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication because she had only one class left to take in order to graduate but it had filled up too quickly.

Even freshman students, who have priority when choosing their

schedules, have had problems during registration.

"I didn't think choosing my courses would be this difficult," said freshman Chris Hernandez. "There were two classes I needed to take that became full, and unfortunately no other times were made available," he said.

"I know the students get frustrated. It's not like we're deaf," said Allan Richards, the interim chair at the SJMC. "I spend a lot of time answering calls."

Richards may be willing to assist students, but for the most part, help is usually in short supply.

That registration is a hectic period for staff members and advisors should not be an excuse for a mediocre registration process.

If the administration is aware that the same problem occurs every semester, it should provide for more staff to be available during registration in order to assist the students.

Furthermore, department officials must ensure that a sufficient amount of sections will be opened to satisfy the needs of their students.

FIU enrolled 37,424 students during the Fall 2005 semester, with a student to faculty ratio of approximately 17:1. Clearly, shortage of faculty is not an issue.

Richards argues that the option of whether or not more sections are opened rests on three other principles: "demand, room availability and finances."

Richards went on to say that choosing what classes students will be taking the following semester is "hard to predict, but if the demand is great enough, they open up more classes."

However, there is never any certainty that further sec-

tions will be opened.

Furthermore, it may take several days for a new section to open up, and the schedule for the new section is often not disclosed until the last minute. This causes conflicts in students' schedules that then lead to even more problems.

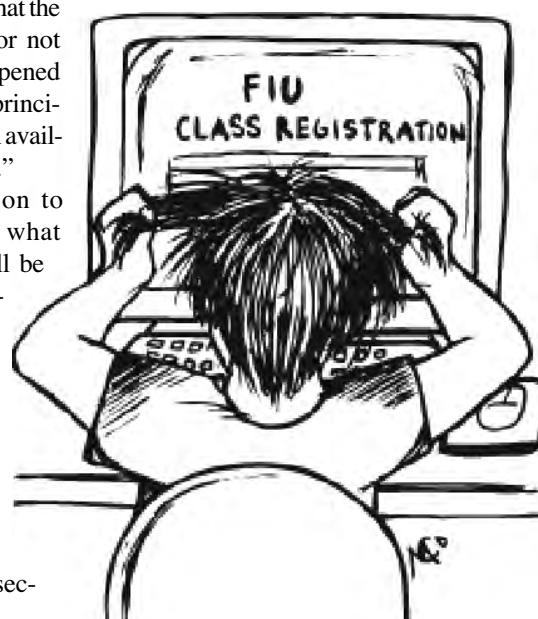
The opening of additional, however, still relies on two factors that Richards mentioned: room availability and finances.

More effort should be invested into collaborating with other departments and determining how many sections should be opened for a class so that students are not left behind.

Moreover, administrators should find a way to give priority to students who need to take a specific class that semester in order to graduate or advance in their track.

Students at FIU are continually left struggling to meet their track requirements because of insufficient open sections and thus far, the University has done little to alleviate the problem.

Though these difficulties surrounding registration may stem from complicated funding issues and logistical snags within the University, the important thing to realize right now is that a serious problem exists and it must be resolved immediately.



THE BEACON | Editorial

FIU should invest in curbing campus crime

The public safety forum held at Lakeview Hall Oct. 17 revealed a safety problem at FIU. Crime is on the rise while police officers are in short supply.

According to Salisha Lall, public safety manager, the department employs about 35 officers who are responsible for maintaining law and order in both the University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses. At a university with more than 37,000 students enrolled, that amounts to less than one officer for each 1,000 students.

What's more, as Public Safety Chief Bill King said in the forum, only three of these 35 officers are on patrol on the UP campus at any given time. That's three officers to patrol five dorms, four parking garages and over 20 major academic and administrative buildings spread over 344 acres.

Given this, it's little wonder that the number of successful and attempted vehicle thefts has jumped from 17 last year to 61 this year.

As recently as Sept. 27, King claimed that Public Safety's statistics "are not showing the same number of cars are being broken into."

He attributed students' perception of increased car theft incidents to idle talk and speculation. A month later, he revealed statistics showing a 259 percent increase in successful and attempted car theft.

King was right to describe

our university of "38,000 going on 40,000 students" as a "small city." Does any other small city with a population comparable to FIU's have such a small police force?

Fortunately, while crimes against vehicles have increased in the past year, crimes against persons – stalking, rape and aggravated assault – have dropped significantly and burglary rates fell slightly.

Public Safety has clearly employed its limited budget and manpower effectively.

However, in order to curb crime within its "small city," the University must invest in a proper police force.

In the Oct. 17 forum, King said the department is expecting to receive increased funding, and also expects to expand the number of active officers, in the near future.

If safety on campus is truly a priority for the University, it must be sure to increase the police department's funding substantially. If students – and their vehicles – are to be safe on campus, FIU's police force must be proportional to the amount of students it enrolls.

Moreover, "the near future" is a vague parameter. To make a concrete dent on campus crime rates, the administration and Public Safety must set forth a concrete time frame within which the police department's budget and workforce will be expanded.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Are you planning on voting in the midterm elections?

- Yes – I've been following the election issues all along
- Yes – I don't know who's running, but I'll vote anyway
- No – I'm sure my vote won't make a big difference

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off at GC 210 at University Park, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beaconopinion@yahoo.com. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words. 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.

OPINION

C. Joel Marino Editor in Chief • Christopher Necuze Production Manager • Jose de Wit Opinion Editor

Five Years 11 Later

CHRIS ON CHRIS: A POLITICAL DEBATE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT



The events of 9/11 horrified people of all races and religions. Sadly, some partisans have used this national tragedy as a political tool.

Many have been eager to invoke its memory, running smear campaigns depicting the tragic events which imply that if Democrats are given more power, our security will be weakened.

These claims are not just scandalous; they are wrong. In fact, Republicans cannot claim superiority on the issue of security.

Take for example, the way they've handled the Department of Homeland Security. In May, the DHS announced that it would cut security grants to New York City by 40 percent. Decisions like these are made using the National Asset Database, the department's list of possible terror targets. The more targets a state has, the more money it receives.

Shockingly, the Brooklyn Bridge, the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty did not make the list. According to the *New York Times*, in lieu of protecting these vital landmarks, the DHS has squandered money in securing obscure locations such as Old Mac Donald's Petting Zoo in Alabama and Indiana's Amish Popcorn Factory.

No popcorn, no matter how delicious, belongs on a list of national treasures to be protected.

The Republican security strategy is wide open for criticism. They've used terrorism

as justification to curtail civil liberties, torture suspects, and invade Iraq.

Yet the *Washington Post* reported last year that only 14 people with clear links to Al-Qaeda have been convicted since 9/11. Is that enough to justify the Patriot Act, illegal wiretapping, and the use of torture?

Meanwhile, the Democrats have tried to strengthen our security. Currently, less than six percent of containers entering our ports are inspected. Yet when Democrats proposed an increase in funding to screen cargo, their request was denied. In fact, many worthy proposals have been rejected, from increasing funding for firefighters to heightened efforts, to secure loose nuclear material.

The most damning piece of evidence against Republicans however, more than the rejection of these proposals, more than the meager 14 convictions, more than their wacky target list, is how they've spent our tax money.

They spent \$70 billion dollars on an extension of tax cuts for the wealthy this year. That's \$29 billion more than the entire homeland security budget.

The Republicans have failed to live up to their own rhetoric. They've failed to deliver on finding the WMDs and on providing adequate body armor for the troops. Given this, it's no surprise that the Alex station, the CIA department charged with capturing Osama bin Laden, was shut down earlier this year.

Like any other issue, when it comes to security, actions speak louder than words.

Someday we may have

a congress willing to challenge the status quo and fix some of these glaring security oversights. Someday we'll have leaders who live up to their promises. But for now, Republicans will continue calling Democrats weak and ignoring all of their ideas – some of which could very well protect us.



Over the last five years since 9/11, the Bush administration has made homeland security its top priority.

If you're going to roll your eyes, do it now. My Democrat buddies will show me fact after fact proving beyond a reasonable doubt – to them at least – that our country is actually less safe than it was before that day in September five years ago.

This is where I roll my eyes, because there is one fact that dismisses everything else as mere speculation. It is the fact that not only keeps me voting red but keeps me hopeful that we are actually making progress despite all the bad news: there have been no terrorist attacks on the U.S. homeland since September 11, 2001.

Game over. The Bush administration must be doing something right because if they weren't, terrorists who live only to kill Americans would have found a way to penetrate our defenses. It is most certainly not for a lack of trying that Osama bin Laden's henchmen have not succeeded in attacking us. Those up to date on their current events will recall certain arrests made in the U.K. just a few weeks ago which disrupted a plot by terrorists to use liquid explosives to destroy jetliners in mid air, killing all on board.

Not being able to accept the possibility that some of

as I'll give to the one that says the federal government had a hand in 9/11. The thought that our government had something to do with the events of 9/11 is absurd and completely devoid of any physical evidence.

I would like to pose a question to all of the liberals out there: if you were in power what would you do that is so radically different that it will solve all of our security problems?

If the Democratic National Committee has an answer to the national security question, I sure wish they would share it with me – because all I see coming from the Democrats is complaint after complaint, but no real solutions. What will be the Democrats' platform next election day? The same

thing it was last election day: Bush is wrong, end of story. They'll elaborate on that until they are blue in the face, but that's essentially it.

I am not trying to paint President Bush as a savior who can do no wrong. This country still has a long way to go before it can say that it is sufficiently protected against terrorists. In fact, that day may never come.

All I am trying to communicate is that until I am offered a better alternative I will vote for the party that has not let a terrorist claim a single American life on American soil since 9/11.

WHO'S ON TOP THIS WEEK?

E-MAIL US AT
beaconopinion@yahoo.com

MAKE YOUR CHOICE



CHRIS CUTRO/THE BEACON

HEALTHY LIVING A MATTER OF CONSCIOUS EFFORT

SARAH RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Many college students are aware of the need to stay healthy – we know that Mom always said to eat your vegetables – but we don't care enough to do much about it. True health means keeping all aspects of ourselves – our bodies, minds and spirits – finely tuned.

Often, the college lifestyle stands in the way between students and this goal. Many students overload schedules, relying on caffeine to skip sleep before tests in order to cram in more studying and fall into smoking and excessive drinking on weekends. Because FIU is rooted in the body-conscious Miami, one may work out regularly, but may also follow trendy diets like Atkins or South Beach.

What many don't realize is that health is not about being thin or buff, so these diets won't help – instead, it's all about balance.

Senior Health Educator Casandra L. Roache and Health Educator Dahlia Mohammed at the University Park Wellness Center, offer a wealth of practical tips that students

can put into practice.

1. DON'T SKIP BREAKFAST!

“By that, I mean toast, or one of those nutrition bars, not just a Snickers,” Roache explained. “Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It helps shake off our sleepiness and instead give us the energy we need to focus during our busy day ahead.”

2. THINK BEFORE YOU CHOOSE YOUR ON-CAMPUS LUNCH

Instead of choosing fatty options such as Burger King, Roache and Mohammed recommend to explore smart options UP has to offer. Among their recommendations: Camille's Café, Einstein's whole-grain bagels, wraps from the Breezeway Café and yogurt from the Panther Stop.

“Be careful of the type of sandwich you get, even at Subway,” Roache advised. “You still have to watch what you eat.”

3. DRINK WATER

Even if summer's over and the weather eventually starts cooling off, remaining hydrated is crucial. Take a water bottle with

you to class even if you're not feeling thirsty, because flushing your body with water keeps toxins out.

4. EXERCISE... JUST DO IT

Roache recommends a minimum of 30 minutes of exercise three or four times a week.

“It adds years to your life,” she said.

By making the choice to consistently work out, one automatically reduces the risk of countless diseases like heart disease and high blood pressure. But beyond that, studies show that exercise helps keep the mind active and sharp, especially when an aerobic workout is combined with concentrated toning like yoga or pilates.

5. TAKE TIME OUT TO RELAX

Psychology Today says that prayer and meditation significantly reduce stress, making those that practice it closer to focused, holistic health.

Other good habits are pausing every once in a while to connect with our breathing, getting at least eight hours of sleep and actively observing our surroundings.

Aside from these helpful tips, Roache and Mohammed detailed the many resources that students can tap into conveniently at the Wellness Center. Assessments are available by appointment to diagnose students' “wellness age,” meaning the age to which their health corresponds. The staff offers nutritional and stress-management consultations, as well as free 10-minute massages every Wednesday from 1 to 3 p.m.; condoms, HIV testing and vitamins for women are always free.

Like many students, Adela Poudratchi said she was unaware of most of these services, and would now like to take advantage of them.

“The nutritional analysis sounds helpful because I know I don't eat right... I remain thin but unhealthy.”

The center will also host an open house on Sept. 21, with free give-aways and screenings going on all day. October will be breast cancer month, with free testing all month and testimonials from students who have experienced breast lumps firsthand on Oct. 12.

More information is available at www.fiu.edu/~health.

Students' feelings mixed on 9/11 movies' timeliness



REUBEN PEREIRA
Asst. News Director

Five years after Sept. 11, 2001, most Americans still remember the events as if they were yesterday. The attacks in New York City and Washington D.C. affected the lives of millions of people, either directly or indirectly. Immigrating to the country became harder than ever; airport security wasn't the same; and more people of Islamic, Arab or South Asian descent were subjected to hate crimes.

Hollywood hasn't been an exception. Since 2001, there have been more than 100 films or documentaries released that reference the 9/11 tragedy in some way. It could be a minor reference, like in Richard Curtis' romantic comedy “Love Actually” (2003) or it could be the crux of the plot, like in Michael Moore's highly controversial but

critically acclaimed documentary “Fahrenheit 9/11” (2004).

However, 2006 saw the release of two vastly different, highly publicized films that directly dealt with the terrorist attacks – “United 93” and “World Trade

its final moments before crashing near Shanksville, Pa. The film opened the Tribeca Film Festival in late April to some of the year's best reviews but despite critical acclaim and buzz, the film failed to sell tickets, perhaps mirroring

“Hollywood is cashing in, which of course, is no different from the Administration in the White House: shameful and shameless...”

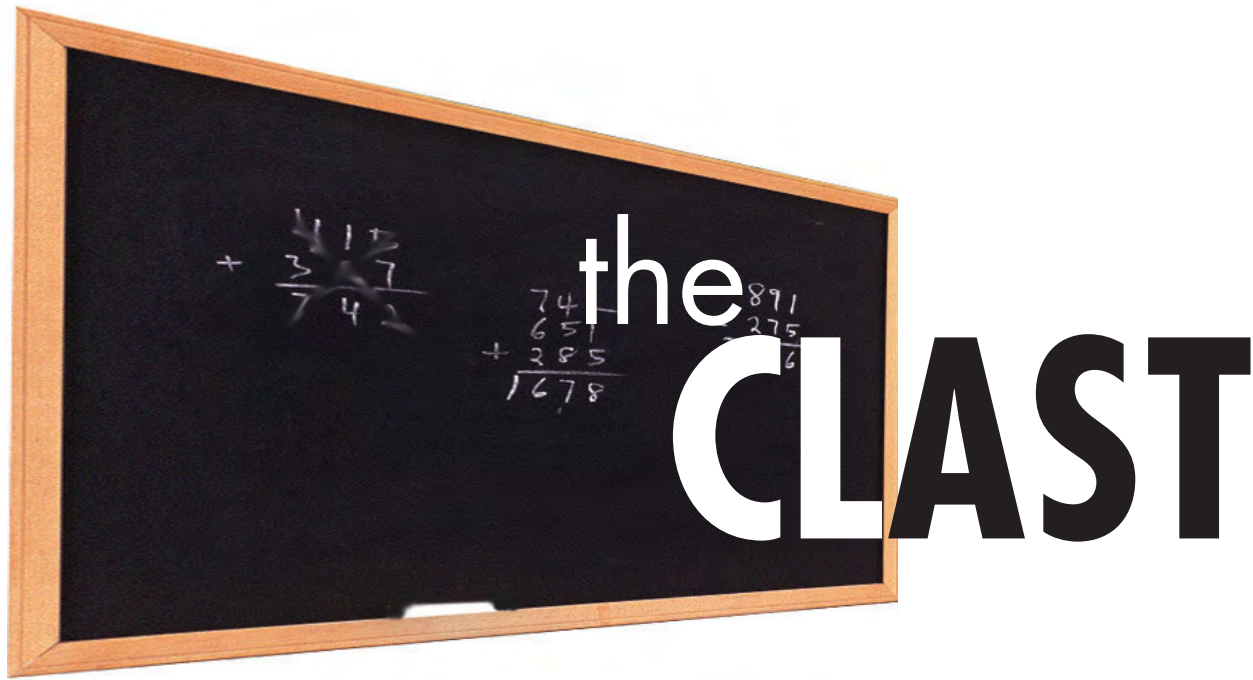
Center.”

The public reaction to these films has been mixed, to say the least. The first film, Paul Greengrass's “United 93,” dramatized a popular theory of events on board the fourth hijacked flight and what may have happened in

public sentiments.

Junior Anisha Perez, who lived across from Manhattan on 9/11, refused to watch the films because of the events' effect on her community. Perez, a native of New

DOCUMENTING TRAGEDY: Films such as “United 93” (above), recounted the events of 9/11 too soon for some tastes. COURTESY PHOTO



What you need to know to get over the hurdle

NICOLE ACOSTA
Staff Writer

For Patricia V. Montalvan, her final grade in Freshman Composition determined whether she would have to take the CLAST exam.

The junior earned a B minus in ENC 1101 and a C in ENC 1102.

“They told me I wasn’t exempt from it because of a minus sign,” she said.

Because Montalvan did not fulfill her exemption requirements, she took the CLAST exam for the first time during the Summer C semester of 2006.

Montalvan passed the essay and the language skills portion of the exam, but it was the reading comprehension portion that she did not pass.

“The main reason why I did not pass was because of the time. It was a lot of reading,” Montalvan said.

Montalvan is just one of many students who still have to fulfill the CLAST, or the College Level Academic Skills Test. It is required by all students looking for an undergraduate degree in the State of Florida. It should be taken by all undergraduate students by the time they complete 55 to 60 semester hours, but not before completing 18 semester hours.

Transfer students with more than 48 semester hours should take the CLAST during their first semester at FIU. Students with an accredited bachelor’s or higher degree are not eligible to take the CLAST.

Students can be exempted from the exam if their SAT score is 500 or above in each section or their ACT score is 21 or above in English and Math and 22 or above in reading. If they have a 2.0 GPA average in their two English and two pure Math classes, the CLAST requirements are satisfied.

Maria Kulick, director of the University Testing Center, had several tips concerning the CLAST exam.

“The first thing a student should do is try to exempt the test,” she said. “The second tip is to not wait or postpone the CLAST because many students delay the satisfying of the test and block their ability to register for upper division classes.”

Kulick is right – students who do not take the CLAST before completing 60 semester hours may be prohibited from continuing their education by being removed without refund from upper division courses they are enrolled in or by being barred from registering at FIU until the CLAST requirements are met.

To prepare for the CLAST, students have several resources at their disposal.

FIU has a link on its website to GATO, a site that links you to a CLAST exam practice test. There, students can take a practice test for the reading, writing

and math portions. The essay portion, however, is not available to practice online. Once students complete each section, they will immediately receive an online report that will reveal their score and the specific questions that were missed. Students will also be able to click on a tutorial in the areas where they missed a question.

Char Eberly, an English professor and a coordinator of the writing lab at the University Learning Center, says the lab helps students prepare for the CLAST by first giving them a diagnostic. Eberly advises students to “come early, come often.”

CLAST preparation workshops are offered three different times a year during the beginning of each semester. Students may register for these workshops at the Testing Offices in University Park’s Primera Casa 248 or Biscayne Bay’s Academic I 160.

Miami-Dade College and Broward Community College offer day, evening and weekend courses for the CLAST exam.

Also, the FIU Bookstore and Libraries have books and study guides available for those students who need to take the CLAST.

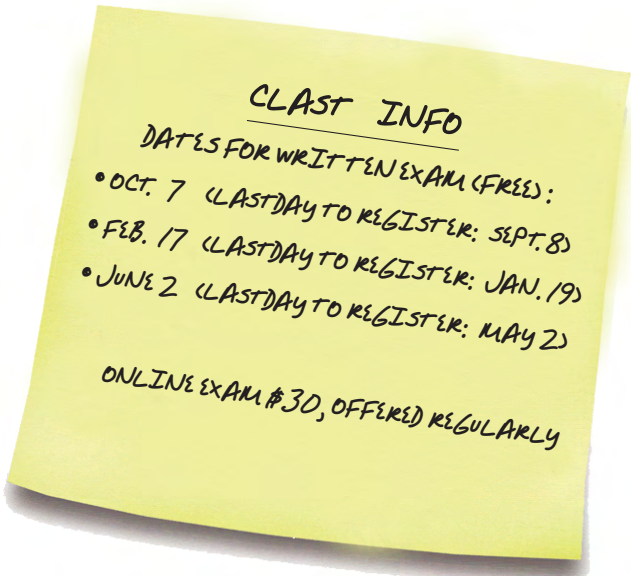
Although there are a vast array of study guides and tools for the CLAST exam, some students, like Montalvan, do not study for the exam at all.

“I just didn’t study,” she confessed. “I was also taking classes at the same time. I didn’t think it was going to be too complicated.”

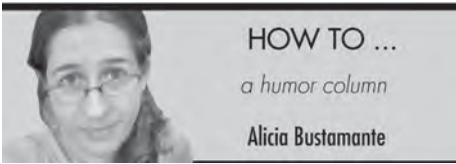
Montalvan has some advice for students in her position.

“Manage your time. It’s going to be a lot of reading in a short period of time. Or, be aware of the grade that you need so you don’t have to take it,” she said.

To make an appointment at the UP Learning Center, call (305)-348-2180. For BBC, call (305)-919-5927.



Warning: Smoking may cause column



I can’t remember my first day of school, my high school prom or my PIN number, but I can easily remember the day I became addicted. I had just finished my first day as a hostess at a pricey restaurant, and I had never had so many affluent people look at me like I was trash. I guess they could smell the minimum wage.

My trainer and I stepped out after our shift with our feet aching and headaches pounding. He looked at my miserable face, pulled a box out of his blazer and said, “Here, you look like you need one of these.”

That was the day I met the greatest love I’ve ever known. His name was Parliament.

We’ve had some great times these past four years. We go clubbing, we take long walks and he consoles me when I’ve failed a test or had a hard day at work. I can always use him as an excuse to leave family gatherings or boring social events.

He even gets along with my diverse circles of friends like vodka and tonic or coffee and newspaper.

But alas, our relationship must end because, like all of my other relationships, he will be the death of me.

I know I’m not the only one in a destructive relationship. Here’s how to get out while you’re still alive.

KNOWING WHEN ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

I’m not saying all smokers are addicted. Everything, when done in moderation, can be controlled. However, there has to be a point where you can recognize things have gone from mildly amusing to pathetic. Like Paris Hilton.

One way to recognize a problem is when your bank statements start looking like Marlboro invoices. Another is when you walk down the Graham Center and your smell can create an unintended 3-foot force field around you.

A sure fire way to know if you’re addicted is when you find *Angela’s Ashes* on your syllabus and wonder if she buys lights. I knew I was addicted when I drove by a pet crematorium with the windows down once and thought, “Wow, what is that brand? It’s funky.”

Nevertheless, there’s more to quitting than acknowledging your problem and fashioning yourself a nicotine patch, weight belt or corset. It’s a mental game. You have to look the enemy in the eye and say, “Mom, I will not let you control my life anymore.” Wait, that’s not right...

ASSOCIATE THE GOOD WITH THE BAD

James Dean is dead. You have to convince yourself that the days of smoking to look cool have gone with him. It’s hard to correlate nicotine’s tingly sensation as the grim reaper’s scythe. Therefore, you have to associate smoking with lifestyles that are simply not you.



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Films offer interpretive views of national tragedy

MOVIES, page 7

her community. Perez, a native of New Jersey, didn't think enough time had passed to make a movie on the events.

"That day and the weeks and months that passed took a toll on everyone around me," Perez said. "Luckily, I wasn't affected personally, but I know a lot of people who did and I think that it's just too soon for these movies to come out. I really couldn't imagine seeing those movies. Just thinking about it makes me cry."

Senior Henry Wolfinger also thought it was too soon for Hollywood to release films about 9/11. "There are many things about September 11 that people don't know about and not everything that movies depict could be realistic," Wolfinger said.

"I'm pretty much against all [the 9/11 movies] and I don't think they should be made because I'm against worshipping the people who died on that day or making them heroes," Wolfinger said. "History has had time to go back and analyze Vietnam and say, hey, maybe Americans did messed up things out there. Same with Pearl Harbor. There's no heroism there. Americans got owned and that's the story they tell. But 9/11 is too recent for us to analyze and clearly say, hey, this is what really happened."

Senior Sam Enos, a TV Production major and a student in the Film Studies program who hasn't had the chance to watch the films as of yet, wasn't against the idea of making films about 9/11, but since he hadn't got the chance to watch the films, he wasn't

sure if he could make any judgments.

"As long as the filmmakers are staying true to the story and as long as they are presenting the truth, I don't see a problem with making a film on the events," Enos said. "However, I really can't say unless I've seen a specific piece of work."

To Barbara Weitz, dean of the Film Certificate program, the films are another way for Hollywood to cash in on the misfortune of others.

"Hollywood is cashing in, which of course, is no different from the Administration in the White House. Shameful and shameless," Weitz said.

The second 9/11 film, "World Trade Center," was directed by controversial filmmaker Oliver Stone, known for courting conspiracy theories. Initially, there were concerns that the film would be similar to "JFK," his 1991 film about the conspiracy behind the assassination of former

President John F. Kennedy. However, the film didn't have any strong political comments and was seen by most as a tribute to the police officers and firemen who lost their lives at the WTC. The film starred Nicolas Cage and Michael Pena as New York Port Authority police officers John McLoughlin and Will Jemeno who get trapped in the rubble of the first twin tower.

Senior Frank Perez, a TV production major,

recently watched "World Trade Center" and was supportive of the film.

"[The movie] was not a like a regular commercial film -- it was a tribute to what happened," Perez said. "You don't even see the planes hit the towers. There's no money shot and it's more about how it affected the American people. My own problem was that it was only about two officers and it doesn't mention others who died on that day."

Visualization aids in rehabilitation

SMOKER, page 8

You have to say to yourself: 1) I am not a pretentious bohemian poet. 2) I am not an emo kid stealing his mother's cigarettes because she wouldn't let him go to the AFI concert.

What I like to visualize is me in 40 years living with 18 cats pressing an UltraVoice to my neck. I sound like Optimus Prime

as I muster the words, "Here kitty, kitty" only to drop my device into an open can of Fancy Feast.

Kicking a cigarette habit is no easy task. It usually stems from an oral fixation difficult to replace. If anything, you can chew gum, suck your thumb, or bite your nails. I mean, I don't know what I'd do without my Cuban cigars. Good luck.



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Thanks for reading the Life! section
(come again!)

DBZ’s gameplay lacking despite Manga influence

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Staff Writer

Title: Super Dragon Ball Z
Developer: Atari / Bandai
Release Date: July 18, 2006

There are a lot of fighting games out there, but “Super Dragon Ball Z” takes gamers back to the glory days of arcade fighting. But don’t let that statement fool you, there are plenty of new aged goodies thrown into the game.

“Super Dragon Ball Z” makes use of cell shading graphics that were intentionally designed to mimic the original *manga* (Japanese comic) artwork of Akira Toriyama, the creator of “Dragon Ball.” Toriyama was even consulted to design one of the playable characters in the game: Mecha Freeza. But other than that, the cell shading graphics are pretty standard - it’s the concept behind them that makes the look of the game significant.

Gameplay is where the game really finds its roots in classic arcade fighting games. The game was originally an arcade game in Japan before making its way to the states as a console game. Every attack requires players to execute sometimes complicated button combinations. So if you have ever played games like “Tekken,” “Mortal Combat” or “Street Fighter,” you will be familiar with the games control style.

However, for those inexperienced at fighting games, actually playing the game may be a little difficult at first. Newer fighting games like the popular “Super Smash Bros.”

for the Gamecube have very smooth, easy to control characters. “Super Dragon Ball Z” lacks this smooth handling, especially compared to other “Dragon Ball” fighting games available.

Another drawback to the game is the method in which you increase your playable character’s strength and how you unlock secret players to fight with. Basically you have to play through the game’s story mode many times with a customized character.

There isn’t a lot of replay value either. There are some fighting games out there that you can play over and over again by yourself or with others. But “Super Dragon Ball Z” will probably not hold your interest long if played alone. Even when playing with others, considering how hard it is to control the game characters...let’s just say most would opt to play one of the other fighting games. However, if this game had come out ten years ago, it would have been a smash hit.

Nevertheless, it’s not all bad: the music and sound effects from the game are catchy and realistic. Songs like “Cha-La Head-Cha-La” are taken right from the television series and remixed in the game. Most of the voice actors from the English version of the series reprise their roles in the game. So for the die hard fans of the “Dragon Ball” series, that’s a definite plus.

All around, “Super Dragon Ball Z” is a standard fighting game. The concepts behind the game do make it stand out compared to some others, but I don’t recommend buying the game unless you find it in the super discount bin at Wal-Mart.

Comfort, gourmet foods featured at Fresh Market

LALINDA DE LA FUENTE
Staff Writer

Restaurant: The Fresh Market
Address: 18299 Biscayne Boulevard, Aventura, FL 33160

Because students are always on the run, they are always hungry; when sit-down meals seem too time-consuming and fast food too greasy, there seems to be few other choices.

Gourmet markets that cater not only to “foodies” but also to those who want to escape the everyday are a perfect solution to fast food that won’t completely empty your pockets or prepare you for a grease-induced heart attack.

The Fresh Market chain, a North Carolina original, dots most major towns in South Florida. Their Aventura location on Biscayne Boulevard is a mere five minutes south of the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Although The Fresh Market offers a large variety of gourmet foods, pristine fruits and vegetables and lively vivid flowers, its prepared foods, deli and bakery offer affordable choices that can be eaten in front of your computer while you pump out that five-page essay.

Its prepared foods range from unique wraps to fresh salads and even gourmet pizzas that can be popped in your oven and ready to eat in 10 minutes. A surprising wrap, now my favorite, is its Brie, apple and chicken wrap. The Brie cheese coupled with crispy slivers

of green apple and grilled chicken work really well together. The Brie is creamy enough that mayo is left out but by no means missed.

The Fresh Market also offers tons of sides to accompany your meal. Its lobster chowder and New England clam chowder, two soups that can easily be ruined if not prepared, are surprisingly good for non-restaurant fare. This can be attributed to its use of fresh chunks of lobster and Atlantic clams rather than seafood that is dumped out of a can.

You can also pick up other sides such as pasta salads, potato salads or even the basic but always comforting macaroni and cheese. Although its sides, minus its soups, are at best average, they are still worthy ways to round out a take-out meal.

Although The Fresh Market offers healthy choices, it still offers a bakery section that is filled with delectable and often sinful choices. I was on a quest to find the perfect piece of chocolate cake one evening when I arrived at The Fresh Market. Sure enough there it was, a perfectly ooey-gooney piece of chocolate cake with chocolate frosting and chocolate sprinkles, a chocoholics dream. Pies, from the essential apple to the juicy wild berry, are perfect choices to be coupled with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Now that you have your meal, a side and even a luscious dessert, you can grab a drink and head to your place and chow down on a meal that can be purchased for around 10 bucks.

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FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
ALCOHOL POLICY CONTINUED

DISTRIBUTION, ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION:

The Florida International University Alcohol Policy prohibits the advertisement and/or promotion of the use or consumption of alcohol at any event or activity, by anyone, including, but not limited to, any University department, any organization, distributor or company, on any University premises unless written approval of the content of the advertisement, the size, location and method of distribution of the promotional material are - each and all, specifically approved by the Vice President of Student Affairs or his/her designee.

The following conditions shall also apply:

1. Event sponsors, who are also producers, sellers or distributors of alcoholic beverages shall not be recognized on printed or promotional materials unless prior written approval has been granted by the Vice President of Student Affairs or his/her designee.
2. No alcoholic beverage of the sponsor(s), its subsidiaries, partners, parent or affiliated companies shall be sold or served at the event or concurrent events on University premises, where promotional materials have been approved to bear the name of the sponsor, unless prior written approval has been granted by the Vice President of Student Affairs.

Event planners or University administrators seeking approval for advertising or promotion of the use or consumption of alcohol on University premises shall assure that advertisements and promotional materials satisfy the following minimum requirements prior to requesting approval:

1. Advertisement for alcohol shall not promote the irresponsible use of alcohol.
2. Advertisement shall not encourage any behaviors or activities that directly conflict with the requirements of the FIU Alcohol Policy.
3. Advertisement shall not use alcohol as an inducement to participate in a University event and shall not offer alcohol as a prize or gift in any form of contest, raffle, game, or competition.
4. Social events that encourage drinking, drinking contests, or alcoholic intoxication, and the advertisement of any such events are strictly prohibited.
5. General promotional materials, including advertising for any University sponsored event shall not make reference to the availability of alcoholic beverages unless the event is sponsored by the School of Hospitality Management in association with the FIU Beverage Management Program.
6. Advertising for any event, sponsored by the FIU School of Hospitality Management, where alcoholic beverages will be served and its availability is identified in the promotional material, shall specifically mention the availability of non-alcoholic beverages as prominently as the availability of alcoholic beverages.

TAILGATING AND ATHLETIC EVENTS:

In addition to all other policy conditions, the following conditions shall apply to the service, purchase, use, possession, distribution or consumption of alcohol and alcoholic beverages on University premises at events occurring in conjunction with FIU athletic events and competitions – either before, during or after the games.

1. Alcohol shall not be sold or served in the FIU Community Stadium or within the confines of any facility on University premises where an athletic event is being held, within an eight-hour period before or after the event, if the sale or service of alcohol is in any way associated with the scheduled athletic event.
2. Individuals and members of the public attending any football game on University premises shall not leave and subsequently re-enter the football stadium at any time before or during the game.
3. Individuals and members of the public are prohibited from entering the football stadium while carrying or bearing any type container, open or closed, containing any type beverage.
4. Event managers and University police reserve the right to deny access, to athletic events, to individuals and members of the public who exhibit behaviors consistent with alcohol intoxication, or who behave in any manner inconsistent with the University Alcohol Policy requirements.
5. Tailgating activities on University premises that involve the consumption of alcohol shall be restricted to specifically designated locations monitored by the FIU Public Safety Department.
6. Parking lots and similar locations on University premises, designated for tailgating activities, shall be open for use no more than three hours before the event and shall close within three hours after the end of the event.
7. The sale and service of alcohol, in the manner consistent with all the requirements of this Policy, may take place at specific controlled access locations, subject to the specific approval of each such location by the Vice President of Student Affairs or his or her designee.
8. The FIU Chief of Police shall prepare and submit an **Event Evaluation Summary & Recommendation Report** to the Vice President of Student Affairs within 72 hours of each athletic event and shall specifically address findings related to the use or abuse alcohol at each event, on each report.

Miami may have acquired a declining Daunte Culpepper

DOLPHINS, page 16

per. But after a highly disappointing loss against a Pittsburgh Steelers team playing with their backup quarterback, Culpepper might not be the savior many fans expect him to be.

Not only did he complete less than 50 percent of his passes – completing 18-of-37 – in the NFL Kickoff game Sept. 7, he under-threw and over-threw receivers so many times I thought Jay Fiedler was still playing for Miami.

Dolphin fans are quick to forget how terribly Culpepper performed last season before he injured his knee. Even though he threw for 1564 yards in seven games, he threw 12 interceptions to go along with only 6 touchdown passes – not to mention the five times he fumbled.

After Culpepper went down, the Minnesota Vikings took off and finished the season 9-7. Without Culpepper, the Vikings were 7-3 – with him 2-5. You figure it out.

The Steelers' game also showed us how flawed the Dolphins' secondary is. If Pittsburgh backup Charlie Batch can pass for 209 yards and throw three touchdown passes, can you imagine what Tom Brady or Peyton Manning can do to them?

Not to mention that if a 265 lbs. tight end can out-run the secondary for 87 yards and a touchdown, what can a speedy receiver do to them?

I'm already depressed and it hasn't even happened yet.

The most depressing fact of all is that the Dolphins couldn't even gain momentum after recovering a Pittsburgh fumble on the goal line, which prevented the Steelers from taking a lead for that moment. They responded with a drive that ended in an interception – from Culpepper of all people.

It took Pittsburgh only one play to take the lead for good with that killer 87-yard touchdown pass.

The fact that Culpepper threw another killer interception on what could have been the game-winning drive should show fans something.

Culpepper was put in two pressure situations: the first time to deal a death-blow to the Steelers and the second time to give the Dolphins the lead – and he failed in the almost the worst way possible.

I'm afraid that the Dolphins acquired a quarterback who is in the decline of his career if his last eight games (dating back to last season) are any indication.

Considering the Dolphins haven't been to the playoffs since the 2001 season, winning a Super Bowl be may too much to ask for. Making the playoffs will be hard enough.

I don't mean to sound like a cynic, but the Miami Dolphins will not win the Super Bowl this year, even if it is in their own backyard.

However, I really hope I'm wrong.

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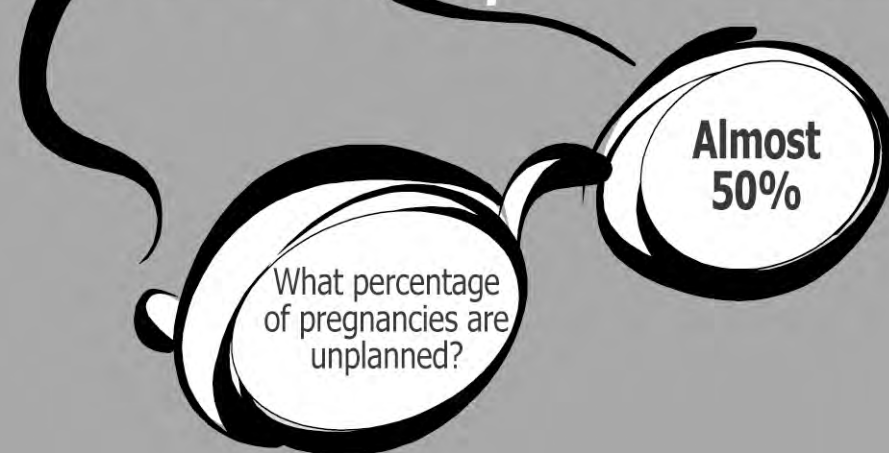
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Rigsby has a ‘good feeling’ about team

RIGSBY, page 16

she admits that there were a few things that took her some time to completely adjust to. One of the main things was the weather, which was not quite like it was back at home.

“The sun is on you while practicing from 11a.m. to 1p.m. and it is difficult to get used to,” Rigsby said.

Even though the women’s soccer team is off to a rough start this season, Rigsby finds ways to keep herself and her teammates motivated.

One of the ways she remains optimistic is by bringing the team laughter. She also reminds them that they will play another game, which helps the team forget about past disappointments against other teams and helps them to focus on their next opponent.

“We have fun and enjoy the game,” Rigsby said. “They are like my American family.”

Perhaps that enthusiastic attitude comes from a few influences Rigsby had while growing

up. The closest being those in her family.

“My brother and I always messed around and played [soccer],” Rigsby said. “My dad also played for a couple of national teams which made him a big influence for me as well.”

On a personal level, Rigsby hopes to leave a certain impact on the team before she graduates.

“I hope to have left a sense of determination and strong effort, as well as have fun while training and playing the game,” Rigsby said.

Although it is only the beginning of her second season, Rigsby has set some goals that she hopes to attain before leaving FIU.

However, her biggest goal is winning to win the Sun Belt Conference title.

“We’ve got a pretty good feeling this year, if we can get it together. Winning this year and the others would be the best, especially the conference,” Rigsby said.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Attention former HS rowers and coxswains

Belen Jesuit Prep’s rowing team is accepting applications from enthusiastic and motivated individuals with previous rowing/coxing experience to serve as Assistant Coaches for the upcoming 2006-2007 school year. Successful applicants will work closely with other coaches to ensure a safe practice environment and provide technical and personal fitness instruction to designated crews from September through May. Some administrative duties will be assigned and some weekend overnight travel to competitions will be required. Prior coaching experience not required. Interested applicants should write Ralph Egües at regues@bellsouth.net or call (305) 669-9644.

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SOPHOMORE SENSATION

Trinidad and Tobago national shines for FIU

JANNEL PALENZUELA
Contributing Writer

After starting in 12 of 14 games last season as a freshman, sophomore Kia Rigsby has proven she can play.

The 5'6" defender from Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago was recently selected as one of 20 players to represent the country at the CONCACAF Women's National U-20 Final Qualifying Tournament Team. She is also one of only five United States based players selected. The tournament will take place Jan. 18-27 in Mexico.

"I've served in seven [national teams] but it's great because I get to go home and see my family and eat good food," Rigsby said. "It's a good bond."

Rigsby also served on the Women's National U-19 Team in 2004 where she helped Trinidad and Tobago (1-2-0) close out group play with a victory over the Dominican Republic (0-3-0).

While playing at FIU, Rigsby recognizes that she has learned new mechanics that she puts to good use everyday both in conference play and tournament play.

"I've been taught to attack a lot more [at FIU]," Rigsby said. "So when I go home and they see me being more aggressive and attacking more often than I used to, they are a bit shocked."

Assistant Coach Ifeoma Dieke added, "When most freshmen come in they are a little scared of attacking and being aggressive, but she has really stepped out. She is no longer a freshman."

Coming in this season, Rigsby has started in all four games as of Sept. 8. As a freshman, she earned a starting position in 12 of 14 games played, which came as a bit of a surprise to the defender who did not think she would start that many games in her first year.

"I did not expect to get much playing time at all," Rigsby said.

One thing that was expected and delivered was her strong work ethic that



JESSICA MARSHALL/THE BEACON

GIVING THE BOOT: Sophomore defender Kia Rigsby, a native of Trinidad & Tobago, has embraced a more attacking role since becoming a Golden Panther last season.

was not only noticed by her coaches and teammates, but in her performance on the field.

"She gives 110 percent each time," Dieke said. "She is very enthusiastic and has fun, but she means business."

As the season progresses, you can expect to see her play hard and with

plenty of emotion.

Senior Midfielder Valerie Patrick said Rigsby brings excitement to the women's soccer team.

Although Rigsby's game was not affected when she first arrived at FIU,

RIGSBY, page 14

Dolphin fans should not get their hopes up

For as long as I can remember, with the exception of last year, Miami Dolphins' fans have always had the highest of expectations for their football team.



MY VIEW

XAVIER VILLARMARZO
SPORTS EDITOR

"Super Bowl or bust" is the mentality year in and year out. Now, I know that's the mentality with all fans of all NFL team, but the Dolphins are a special case.

Take this year for example, the acquisition of Daunte Culpepper being the biggest move of the off-season, the Dolphins are now –all of a sudden – a Super Bowl contender. Sports Illustrated picked them to go to the Super Bowl and ESPN the Magazine has picked them to win the whole thing.

But how much better have the Dolphins really gotten? Unfortunately, not that much better at all.

With the loss of Ricky Williams, Ronnie Brown is now expected to carry the full load of the running game. Even when he was at Auburn University, Brown was never the feature running back of the offense – he shared the carries with current Tampa Bay Buccaneer Carnell "Cadillac" Williams.

The secondary is as big of a question mark as it was last season and the rest of the defense is basically the same as last season, too.

In other words, this is pretty much the exact same team as last season, replacing Gus Frerotte with Culpepper.

DOLPHINS, page 13

Young Marlins' playoff run making fans believe

By the time we're adults, we usually outgrow the belief that Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy are real.

But there's something in South Florida that should be peaking our interest, making us

believe in those mystical stories and magical tales again. And I'll be the first person to admit it, I believe in magic, miracles and the Florida Marlins.

That's right, I said it. Those baby Marlins are going to make the playoffs.

And they're doing it the smart way – with pitching.

On Sept. 6 against the Arizona Diamondbacks, rookie pitcher Anibal Sanchez achieved the ultimate accomplishment in sports: a no hitter. He is the first pitcher to do so since Randy Johnson did it with the Arizona Diamondbacks May 18, 2004. His accomplishment personifies the whole Marlins season.

Nobody would have expected him to throw a no-hitter and nobody would have expected the fish to be in the midst of a wild card chase.

Throughout their entire history, the New York Mets have yet to have a pitcher throw a no hitter.

At the start of the season, a lot of experts predicted the Marlins to lose more games than the 1963 Mets who had 120

losses. It just goes to show you how much the "experts" know sometimes.

It's rare in sports that something like this happens. A rookie team with a payroll of \$15 million contending for a wild card. Sure, \$15 million sounds like a lot but consider



COURTESY PHOTO

this: five New York Yankees are making more money this year than the whole Marlins payroll and two are pretty close to that figure.

A LOST STORY

"It's amazing, it's just too bad no one down here cares about the Marlins because they are missing out on a great baseball story," junior Jose Vidal said.

An amazing story it is indeed. This entire season, the fish have been rewriting the record books. They are the first team since 1952 to have three rookie pitchers record 10 wins within a season. Also, a rookie second baseman became

the first player in Major League Baseball history to make the All-Star team as a rule five draft choice and the most telling stat of them all, they are the first team to start the season 11-31 in May and reach .500 since the 1889 Louisville Colonels.

Come on people, this is history in the making and only 12,561 people were on hand to witness something like this happen. Even ESPN broke coverage from their game of the night between the Chicago White Sox and Boston Red Sox to telecast this nationally.

And you wonder why baseball is struggling in South Florida.

But let's not get away from what a special moment this was and what this season could be. Imagine how much more special it can be if you believe.

And I sure do.



MY VIEW

CHARLIE GRAU
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR