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FUNDING BBC

Vice Provost presents vision

FALLING SHORT

State fails to properly fund FIU

EROTIC AESTHETICS

Museum showcases sexual art

EMPTY SEATS

Basketball attendance low for years

AT THE BAY

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OPINION

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LIFE!

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Student model goes prime time

NELSON HERNANDEZ
Contributing Writer

Sarah Swartz might look familiar to many of students at FIU. The striking advertising major broke out on the Bravo network series "Make Me a Supermodel," though she's been in the fashion and modeling industries for some time now.



SWARTZ

She's a west coast native, born in Seattle and brought up by her mother, whom she "credits with her ambition and determination," according to her spot on the Bravo site. Family has been Swartz's passion, with everything from her trips to her experiences on the show leading back to some description of her family life, her mother being the most prominent.

The self-described "jet setter" prefers the stateside scene. Though she visited L.A. in the summer, a "paradise" as she called it, she prefers the East coast. "New York has a real feeling ... people wise, New York is my favorite place to be."

Swartz has realized the opportunity the show has presented her with.

"With national T.V., the exposure is incredible," she said.

She's not kidding. The

show has followed on the heels of other reality design shows like "Project Runway" and has scored major hits for the network. Stepping up from the local Tampa agency, Level, to Elite New York and has moved onto bigger productions.

The show came with perks besides the job opportunities. She struck out in the first episode but the show isn't anything more than a scouting opportunity. If anything, the loss has made her even more determined to make a name for herself.

On the subject of celebrity, Swartz shies away but mentions, "Tyson [Beckford] and Niki [Taylor] are great, plus I'm still in touch with my housemates."

The friendship aside, the show has featured some interesting challenges.

The first episode in Times Square featured Sarah pulling off the summer fashions ... in the middle of one hell of a New York winter.

"That was terrible, but the hardest challenge was being separated from my family and friends", she said, "but I still loved being in New York."

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HIGH AS A KITE



SOARING: Senior Hasnan Ali takes advantage of a windy Friday evening to fly a kite.

VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

STUDENT FEES

Athletics fee increase approved

CHRISTINA VEIGA
CHRIS CABRAL
Beacon Staff

The University Fee Committee approved an increase last week in the Athletics fee students pay to make up for a \$3 million deficit in the department's budget.

"I am pleased with the partnership that Athletics has developed with the student leadership that is evidenced by the meeting today and the vote," said Julie Berg, senior associate athletic director.

The Athletics fee was already increased for the 2007-2008 academic year from \$11.66 per credit hour, to \$13.05. The latest increase will raise the fee by

\$1.46 per credit hour, placing FIU second in the state for the highest Athletics fee according to documents provided by FIU.

The committee, comprised of faculty, administrators and Student Government Council representatives from University Park and the Biscayne Bay Campus, approved the increase six to two.

SGC-BBC representatives were the only committee members to vote against the increase.

Katiana Saintable, SGC-BBC president and Jonathan Doozan, finance chairperson voted against the proposal.

"Athletics is in desperate need," Saintable said. "But what we're provided with is

not sufficient to go against the wishes of those who put me in this position."

According to Doozan, the committee was not given detailed information about Athletics' current budget. He felt that reducing costs within the current budget might have been a better option than raising student fees.

"We have no idea what the real costs are," Doozan said. "There is no way I could possibly make an educated decision."

The committee held hearings last month for the University community to voice concerns about the increase, however, few students showed up.

"Students at FIU are

masochists," said SGC-UP President Marbely Hernandez. "You can poke them and poke them and they won't move because they have a comfortable seat."

Athletics Director Pete Garcia confirmed the lack of comment on the part of FIU students.

"We haven't gotten any negative phone calls," Garcia said.

Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs and Undergraduate Education, will now review the proposal before it reaches University President Modesto Maidique.

Maidique has the ultimate say and if approved, the increase will take effect Fall 2008.

SGA ELECTIONS

Officials hope online voting increases participation

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Assf. News Assistant

Applications are now available for Student Government Association representatives for the Fall 2008/Spring 2009 school year.

"It's a great way to have a voice," said Carlos Ordoqui, University Park Student Government Council's elections commissioner.

The deadline to submit applications is March 13 at 5 p.m. Students can drop their application off at the SGC-UP office located in Graham Center room 211 or the Biscayne Bay Campus office located in Wolfe

Center room 141.

Currently the SGC-BBC is seeking 14 representatives. SGC-UP is seeking 30 representatives under its new constitutional changes, that have not been approved. The constitutional changes go up for vote March 12.

Ordoqui commented that even though the official number of representative seats to be filled is not set, getting as many students involved as possible is what he cares about.

"If we only had four seats available I would still want 60 applications," Ordoqui said.

In order to qualify as a represen-

tative, students must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. Also, 50 percent of a student's classes must be at the campus they are applying to be a representative for.

The elections for these positions will take place April 1 and 2 through online voting, a first for SGA elections.

"This will make voting so much easier," said Gerardo Gomez-Galvis III, SGC-BBC elections commissioner. "Online voting has been in the works since last year."

According to Gomez-Galvis, beta testing of the online voting system was conducted during the

Fall 2007 elections.

Students will be able to vote for their representatives as well as other SGA positions through their Panthersoft accounts.

"I hope [online voting] will increase participation," Gomez-Galvis said.

Both commissioners commented that FIU students seem to display a level of apathy that prevents them from participating in SGA.

"Students feel like they can't do it," Ordoqui said. "But it's easier than people think [to get involved in SGA]."

One incentive to becoming a

representative is a stipend that many are unaware of, according to Gomez-Galvis.

At UP, representatives receive a stipend of \$437.50 during the Fall and Spring semesters. To receive the payment, representatives must complete five office hours a week in their respective office and attend weekly council meetings.

However, the stipend amount will vary depending on possible budget cuts, constitutional changes and funds allocated for the expense.

Ordoqui hopes online voting will at least double voter turnout.

GREEK LIFE

New sorority will join Greek community

ASHLEY ARTILES
Staff Writer

For 20 years, the Panhellenic Council has helped more than 1,000 female students involved in Greek life and now, they will help more.

With nine potential organizations submitting their requests to join the council this year, the governing council of sororities at FIU announced that it will be expanding.

Of the nine organizations, only four were chosen to make a presentation during February and March to begin a new sorority at FIU. The four potential organizations include Alpha Phi, Delta Delta Delta, Sigma Kappa and Alpha Gamma Delta. Only one organization will be chosen to begin its colony at the University.

This year the council's cabinet members will work with many of FIU's offices such as the Women's Center to plan "Take Back the Night," an event designed to educate women against sexual assault. The members will also be working with the Center for Leadership and Service to plan a Greek Day of community service as well as a lecture series known as the "engage series"

to build leadership skills in FIU students.

"By closely planning events and collaborating with the FIU offices, the council is diminishing the over programming of events," said Rachel Olmedo, vice-president of Panhellenic Council.

With the new organization being added by the end of the semester, Panhellenic will focus on risk management.

"By educating Greek women on hazing, alcohol and drug consumption, sexual abuse and Greek housing regulations, Panhellenic Council is building awareness and holding each organization accountable," Olmedo said. "Panhellenic will be tackling the sensitive issues that hurt the public image of sororities."

Starting in the summer, Panhellenic Council will be hosting prerecruitment events that give potential Greek women a glimpse of what sorority life is about.

"By building relationships beyond the Panhellenic community, we hope, through our actions, to eliminate stereotypes and exhibit a positive image for all the sororities on campus," said Tere Feal, Panhellenic Council president

SIGN HERE



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

BOOK SIGNING: Carlos Suarez (left), a political science major, gets a copy of Robert Draper's book "Dead Certain: The Presidency of George W. Bush" signed by the author himself (right) March 6th.

Recruitment is a seven day process where registered women will meet the seven organizations and, by the end of the week, a mutual selection would be made. The new sorority that will be welcomed on April 1 will be taking part in this year's recruitment; the organization will be acquiring its founding members.

"Recruitment is a week long process that is a great opportunity to get involved on campus and, in the future, for networking. It opens doors for you and gives you an opportunity to become an integral [part of] the FIU and Miami communities," Feal said.

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum Steven & Dorothea Green Critics' Lecture Series presents



Nobel Peace Center | Oslo, Norway | Photo by: Tim Soar

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INFORMATION

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PRIDE DAY

Celebration of diversity: fighting discrimination on a divided front

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
Staff Writer

The acronym "LGBTQ" is not as recognizable as the multicolored "gay pride" flag but after next week's Pride Day, many homosexual students on campus hope it will be.

The Multicultural Programs and Services office is celebrating Pride Day as part of its "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer" outreach on campus. Set within the broader Diversity Week, MPAS hopes Pride Day will bring visibility to a group of students it feels have been left in the margins on campus.

"Pride Day is a celebration of diversity," said Nadia Williams, graduate assistant of the LGBTQ initiatives in MPAS. "It is a reminder to everyone that we don't discriminate on campus."

Activities include tabling at University Park and Biscayne Bay Campus and an exhibition displaying LGBTQ images in the GC Pit. All activities aim to provide information for LGBTQ students and educate the FIU community on homosexuality.

"I feel like prejudice doesn't have to always be in an extreme," said Tanick Gaines, president of the LGBTQ organization at UP called Stonewall Pride Alliance. "There are very subtle things that can be very damaging to homosexual students."

Stonewall, an organization that gathers "LGBTQ students and their allies,"

generated attention a couple years ago after an incident of prejudice that was not so "subtle." In 2006, Christian evangelists preached against homosexual "sinners" at UP.

The campus has quieted down since the initial counter-rallies that were initiated by students with makeshift cardboard signs that read "God does not discriminate," in reaction to the anti-gay sermons that day.

After the demonstrations, Stonewall petitioned for an LGBTQ resources center on

"whispers" spoken under a student's breath or in the "fear of retaliation" that homosexuals believe they might instigate if they talk about their sexuality.

Fairell believes that homosexual isolation on campus depends on Universities and their level of conservatism.

Fairell believes that society is influential in creating the burden of "internalized homophobia" that many homosexuals carry with them.

"Society does not practice

true. They believe that if LGBTQ students feel marginalized, it is because it is self-inflicted.

Patrick Rabulan, a sophomore, remembers the religious fundamentalists in 2006 whom he calls "doomsday preachers." Himself a Christian, Rabulan says he is "totally against homosexuality" but that he can "separate between what a person does and who they are."

"He hates the sin but loves the person," said his friend, Sergio Gonzales, an FIU freshman who finds Pride Day "amusing."

"With Pride Day, they are saying 'we are different from you.' Pride Day should be every day. I've always found Black History Month amusing too, it should be every month," he said, adding that Pride Day is "catering to the mainstream culture."

In front of Pollo Tropical in the Graham Center, Stephanie Fritz said the problem stems from the "close-minded" people on campus and in society.

"It freaks her out, lesbians and all that stuff," said Fritz, speaking about her sister. "It's just different to her, and anything that is different isn't right."

It is this mentality that MPAS and Stonewall want to change.

"I want all students to feel accepted whether they are gay or straight. The university is very categorized. I'd just like to see some growth," Gaines said.

“Nadia Williams, Graduate Asst. of the LGBTQ
Pride Day is a celebration of diversity. It is a reminder to everyone that we don't discriminate on campus.

campus. The closest that the University has come to such a center is William's position as a graduate assistant in the MPAS office, which concentrates on LGBTQ issues. Currently, the office is writing a proposal to hire a permanent position at the office, Williams said.

Yet, the reason behind the campus' overall indifference is perplexing for Gaines.

She questions whether it exists because there is a "sort of live and let live" mentality on campus or because the "gay community has kind of assimilated into the campus populous."

Either way, she explains that prejudice does exist in

telling people that they are unconditionally beautiful," she said. She believes that internalized homophobia can lead to unhealthy lifestyles like promiscuity and drug abuse.

"Everyone's journey is different, there are many gay people and they are very smart and so intellectually on top that they don't realize that if they slow down, there are whispers of hate," among them, Fairell said.

Gaines agrees that "self-loathing" gays are possible and that it is something that is "born out of outside influences."

For some straight students on campus, the opposite is

Police Notes

- **Feb 29:** At 10:25 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the Green Library after receiving a call referring to a suspicious person in the area. The officer discovered student inside classroom 160, a computer room, wearing latex gloves and acting as if he had possible mental issues. He was not arrested but given a trespass warning from both campuses which he read and signed. He was also advised that if it was discovered that the computer had been damaged, he would be arrested.
- **March 1:** An FIU student reported to police that while she was on the first floor of the Chemistry and Physics Building, she observed two unknown suspects breaking into a coin operated vending machine. The two suspects stole the money from the machine and damaged it. They fled in an unknown vehicle. An area canvass was conducted to locate the two suspects but was met with negative results. The victim of the burglary was notified on the phone.

- For complete notes, visit www.fiusm.com

- Compiled by David A. Barrios

SGC-UP Notes

Call to Order: 4:15 p.m. • Adjournment: 5:21 p.m.

President's Report (Marbely Hernandez):

- Referendum on the SGC-UP constitution will take place March 12.
- Athletics fee increased by \$1.46.

Vice President's Report (Arthur "AJ" Meyer):

- Gracie's Grill beautification underway; outside area has been repainted.
- Forum to take place to discuss how students can request to use the Athletics' venues that are part of the Athletics partnership that was coupled with the Athletics fee increase.

Speaker of the House's (Jennifer Ruiz):

- Harry Lee Anstead, a Justice of the Florida State Supreme Court, will be speaking on March 8 at 1 p.m. in the Raphael Diaz-Balart Law Building room 1009.

Academic Affairs:

- Mobile Campus cell phone initiative proposal being written. Bids will then be accepted from cell phone companies to provide the service outlined in the proposal which include mass text messages in the case of an emergency.

- Compiled by Ben F. Badger Jr.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • MARCH 10

Mythical Women Monday:
11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

Panther Rage General Meeting:
4 p.m., Graham Center 140

TUESDAY • MARCH 11

Tranquil Tuesday Wellness Expo
9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

LGBT Fag Bug:
11 a.m., Chapman Plaza (UP)

LGBT Pride Day:
2 p.m., Graham Center Pit

General Emerging Green Builders Meeting:
5 p.m. - 6 p.m., Dean's Conference room on 2nd floor in Engineering Building

Movie Night:
7 p.m. - 11 p.m., WUC Theatre (BBC)

SPC UP- Female Orgasm
8 p.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

Deadline to Drop Class with a DR Grade

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 12

Wonderful Women Wednesday:
11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

VEO: Money, Miami, and SES:
1 p.m., Graham Center 314

LGBT Pride Day:
2 p.m., Graham Center Pit

SGA General Meeting:
4 p.m., Graham Center 150

Asian Student Union General Meeting:
6 p.m., Gracies Grill

Women's Forum:
7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., (BBC)

THURSDAY • MARCH 13

SPC Irish Celebration:
12 p.m. - 2 p.m., Graham Center Pit

Take it Back Thursday
11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

STARS: Money in my Pockets:
2 p.m., Graham Center 216

Anything Goes Anime General Meeting:
3:30 p.m., Chemistry & Physics 197

Italian Club General Meeting:
3:30 p.m., Graham Center 150

SPC BBC Movie- "I am Legend:"
5 p.m., Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre (BBC)

Female Orgasm:
7 p.m. - 10 p.m., WUC Theatre (BBC)

FRIDAY • MARCH 14

STARS: Financial Savvy:
1 p.m., WUC 253 (BBC)

ENGAGE Leadership Workshop:
12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m., Graham Center 305

SGA Scholarships Due:
5 p.m., Graham Center 211

SPC Movie- "I am Legend:"
7 & 10 p.m., Graham Center 140

- Compiled by Cassandra Pool

Community raises funds for campus

ANA PEREZ
BBC Life Editor

The sounds of a harp fluttered around the entrance of the Wolfe University Center's Ballroom as 150 community members awaited the start of a fund-raiser luncheon at Biscayne Bay Campus.

BBC's Vice-Provost Damian Fernandez hosted the event on March 6 to raise money for his future plans for BBC, which include opening a new dining facility in August, a refurbished olympic-sized pool and start-to-finish programs that will allow students to complete their degree without traveling between the two campuses.

"Ladies and gentleman, the future is bright for this campus, and with your support I know we can help BBC reach its potential," Fernandez said to the assembled crowd. "We will build on our 30 years of educational excellence."

Fernandez anticipates that funds raised will allow BBC students to conduct hands-on research that will motivate them to pursue graduate studies.

Rebecca Dinar, outreach coordinator for the vice provost, said the fundraiser will do more than fill pools and dining halls.

"It's also an opportunity to bring the community together to support public education in general and on this campus in specific," Dinar said. "This is the

first time we do this and we are using FIU's 30th anniversary to raise money and awareness about BBC."

Fernandez outlined a plan to develop an interdisciplinary coastal environmental initiative to ensure Florida's future leaders are diverse and well prepared to address the state's needs. He hopes to propel BBC in becoming one of the greenest campuses in the nation.

"We seek to encourage the community to learn more about the environment," Fernandez said.

Attendees included mayors from Golden Beach, Sunny Isles, Bay Harbour and North Miami, as well as Ronald Berkman, FIU's provost. "The state and the university have many significant challenges that we need to fix," Berkman said. "Public education renames the core of the American dream and the core of the American prospect"

Active FIU students were also present, ranging from David Fonseca, student environmental liason, to BBC's Student Government Council President Katiana Saintable.

Although the exact amount of money raised is still being tallied, Dinar is hopeful of the outcome while Fernandez is eager to begin new projects.

"We have much more to do and for that we need partners as well as imaginations," Fernandez said.

Swartz still hopes for modeling career

MODEL, page 1

She plans on hanging around the south for a bit.

"Miami has the best weather, plus there's always work available and I love Miami fashion week."

When it comes to music, Swartz shows extremely varied tastes.

"Some of the last albums I listened to [were] Common's last album "Finding Forever" ... I love the Shins' "Wincing the Night Away" too. I'm big on Jack Johnson and house music from Bob Sinclair," she said.

Swartz has come a long way

from her first meet-and-greet in New York and is just one example of FIU students slowly seeping into the media and showing their potential to be successful in any industry. If her exit video is any indication, the show was nothing more than a launch for her, not her final shot at the industry.

Swartz's dream may include modeling, but it's not her only aspiration.

"I love acting. I want to start classes to get into character. I feel too fake sometimes. Opening my own boutique would also be nice," she said.

MANDALA MOVES ON



PHOTO CREDIT/THE BEACON

THE END OF ART: Tibetan Monks finish their four-day andala painting and collect the remnants to disperse them in the waters behind Biscayne Bay Campus on March 6.

Ephniko crafts new take on old school hip-hop

SHERVIN BAIN
Contributing Writer

Anthropology student, culture documentarian, lyricist and hip-hop artist, Alvaro Cuello, a freshman student at FIU has released his debut album titled "Escribo Lo Que Vivo," which means "I write what I live" in Spanish in 2007.

It sends the message that "your own life should shape the change that you bring to this world," said Cuello.

Cuello's rap alias is Ephniko, an acronym for Eternally Producing History, Never Ignoring Knowledge. Ephniko defined his talent as ethnic.

"Ethnicity is the identity that you create who you are with and against the world. That's what my art is, with and against the world," Cuello said.

Anger, frustration and depression, during his teenage years prompted Cuello to begin writing music.

"I rose from my immigrant

experience; the accommodation to what the US culture is like [...] I rose to the need to put certain feelings on paper, and once I did that the understanding of those feelings became more intense," said

Cuello, who moved to the United States from Barranquilla, Columbia in 1992.

Ephniko started in the hip-hop culture as a break-dancer also known as b-boy, but soon transitioned from dancer to rapper. "I've been traveling, and since the first trip, I started doing a

documentary type of work that goes along with it; pictures, interviewing, just really being able to write about the culture from the perspective of hip-hop," he said.

Although Cuello is proud of his album's unique feel, George Vargas, a sophomore majoring in advertising heard his music for the first time and said he did not like it much.

"He shouldn't get into the rap game, maybe more of a Reggaeton type of thing. I think the beats are just annoying; it takes away from

what he is saying," Vargas said.

While some might not enjoy Cuello's music, others such as senior Faiza Charles said his music is distinctive.

"It sounds like old school, like back in the 80s. It's different. It sounds like he's trying too hard, but I think his message is good," said Charles, who is majoring in Marketing.

Previously, Cue traveled to South Africa to perform at the Battle of the Year, which is the world b-boy championship; he ended up collaborating with other artists, including Zuluboy, an African artist.

"It was a dope experience. I recorded a track out there with my man Zuluboy. It's the first time you hear a track with Spanish and Zulu on the cut. I recorded like 12 tracks out there," Cuello said.

Cuello wants to become a lecturer or a teacher and is studying anthropology to be able to bring his fieldwork to the academic world.

"Academically I want to get that institutional accreditation necessary for me to bring this into the higher learning system," Cuello said.



EPHNIKO



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CON MAN CRIST



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THE ILLUSIONIST: Governor Charlie Crist speaks at a state conference in Aug. 2007.

Students shortchanged by Governor Crist

JOSEPH MARHEE
Opinion Editor

On March 4, Governor Charlie Crist gave the state of the state speech, which was presented on the local National Public Radio affiliate. The event saw Gov. Crist espouse his grandiose plans for Florida's future. Between being a shill for Publix and talking about the "recent" trend in childhood obesity, he managed to discuss the housing crisis and budget cuts for education among the more pressing issues for the last few minutes of his address.

It was quite a performance, until the State Senate Minority Leader, Steven Gellar, got his chance to speak after Crist's standing ovation and completely discredited the Governor's preachy rhetoric with the facts. Gellar presented all of the figures and asserted that while the state has had budget problems in the past.

"We have less money than [2007]," Gellar said. "There is not enough money [for 2008's proposals]."

It makes you wonder where all of the money has gone. Of the \$200

million or so of the state's total education budget, only \$33 million is going toward the University System, while \$144 million is being dispersed among the growing number of public schools in Florida, according to the Governor's proposal, made available on Gov. Crist's Web site. Do you wonder where the \$33 million gets spent?

said in his State of the State speech, "Pessimists see problems, optimists see opportunities. You know I am an optimist, but no matter what your perspective, we must dare to be great."

It's just inexcusable that the state doesn't regulate how universities spend their allotted money; a system of analysis and lending based upon

“Of the \$200 million or so of the state's total education budget, only \$33 million is going toward the University system.”

University President Modesto Maidique's salary surpasses that of President George W. Bush by more than \$10,000 according to *CNN.com*, who reported Bush's salary at \$400,000.

Our football coach, Mario Cristobal is paid more than any other coach in the Sun Belt Conference – despite losing the most games – according to his contract's text.

Crist himself, being the perpetual optimist and fiscally blind man he is,

the universities' specific needs.

For example, the Engineering Center needs to be repaired, but in reality, our Athletics fee rises to pay the electric bill for the skybox in the new stadium.

FIU is not exactly hurting for corporate sponsorships either.

There are plenty of sources of money if FIU wants to sell itself out a little more; its already been suckered into deals with Cisco Systems and the Harris Corporation, what's

THE BEACON | Editorial

Textbook Affordability Bill may benefit students, bookstore as well

The Florida Textbook Affordability Bill, if passed, will go into effect July 1. Legislation of this type is a welcomed change from the usual education-related legislation we have seen in the past few years; usually either collecting money for raised tuition or raising fees and taxes.

The notoriously high prices in the FIU Bookstore will now be of little to no consequence if this legislation passes; the less informed students will be able to benefit from knowledge of third party book stores (like that across 107 Ave. from University Park) or maybe even online retailers for cheaper, new and used books.

In the long run, the perpetual cycle of buying and selling back books to the bookstore will become less costly.

The lowered cost of books will be evened out by the buy-back cost being much higher when sold back to the store. This sort of legislation can make these savings possible.

A constant refrain among students is, "I need money." but after the legislation's pending approval, the financial stress on students about credit hour costs and books will be somewhat

alleviated.

It's atrocious that it takes state legislature to make campus bookstores provide this information rather than price gouging as if the bookstore was a source for water after a drought.

Possibly an unforeseen benefit will be that campus bookstores will be forced to compete with these third party prices – such as those of *Amazon.com* or *Half.com* – and provide the accessibility that lacks with these other retailers that keeps students coming back regardless of price.

The effective passage of this legislation becomes a win-win situation for students and bookstores alike if the aforementioned effects were to result.

The significance of the legislation is that students will be the primary beneficiaries rather than the administration or other secondary constituents of the State University System.

The bill is definitely progress in terms of State University System reform and with all hope, will be passed and students can begin to reap the benefits of a slightly more affordable education.

wrong with a few more?

The financial shortcomings of the state indeed stem from Crist himself. Proposition One is being pushed despite the requisite budget cuts from schools and other public services, just to start.

Somehow, it's acceptable for Crist to equate FCAT scores to how much funding a middle school gets, but can't regulate the spending for the university system.

If universities were compulsive spenders, FIU would be Suzanne Somers; we're going to be the crazy lady stealing turkeys from grocery stores if the administration keep this

money-flush going. FIU obviously isn't getting the kind of support it needs from the state, so it's up to our leadership to impose some semblance of structure.

We were led to believe Crist was going to cleanup Florida; he promised us in 2008 the same things he promised in 2006 when he was elected. Where are the results? In our empty wallets and bank accounts, that's where.

Joseph Marhee can be reached at Joseph.Marhee@fiusm.com

Clinton relies on mudslinging tactics to catch up

CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

The excruciating process for the Democratic Party to nominate its presidential candidate continues after last Tuesday's vote, with Sen. Hillary Clinton promising to take the battle all the way to June's Puerto Rican primary.

Sen. Barack Obama's campaign was hoping the contest would end up being Sen. Clinton's last stand. Instead, the senator from New York returned from her electoral exile of losing 11 contests in a row.

This battle between the popular movement that is the Obama campaign and the political machinery of Clinton looks to be a long, protracted and painful struggle. The run up to the Texas and Ohio contests has shown this process has already taken a dark turn. The Clinton

campaign realized that it has lost the battle of self-identity through various rebrandings from "hope" to "experience" and so on. It now must rely on a full on offensive.

If Clinton really wants to make a serious attempt in capturing the nomination, she will have to rely on attack ads in order to capture the few states that could lean in her favor, and primarily in Pennsylvania, the largest state left to distribute delegates and to win by large margins.

Clinton will need to bank on the hope that she could pull enough large margins of victory in the states she does win in order to convince the super delegates that she is a better choice.

Clinton's dirty campaign may alienate several key groups of Democratic voters, however, including youths and others who are first-time voters energized by the message of the Obama

campaign.

To add further drama to an already dramatic nomination process are the two variables of Michigan and Florida. On the one hand, her tactic relies on strict adherence to party rules, allowing the super delegates free reign to vote as they see fit.

Yet to allow either state's delegates to be counted in the final delegate count would require a tremendous breach of party regulations.

Clinton's clout within the party has enabled her push, which I seriously doubt would have been allowed for Sen. Obama.

For many reasons, her campaign can only succeed within the framework of mudslinging tactics and fighting tooth-and-nail.

Either Sen. Obama could get the nomination based on his superior numbers in the pledged

delegate count or Sen. Clinton could grasp the nomination based on a hard fought and messy campaign and her dealings with the party insiders in the super delegate count, resulting in the dissolution (and disillusionment) of the Obama movement.

In his return from exile, Napoleon remobilized his forces, reinstated his rule and continued to battle the rest of Europe. This period was known as the "Hundred Days," the period of time between Napoleon's resurgence to power and his final defeat. Only time will tell if this period now up to the Denver convention will be Clinton's own "Hundred Days".

Christian Martinez serves as the Vice President of the FIU College Democrats.



COURTESY PHOTO /WEAM.COM

CHARLIE GRAU
Editor in Chief

It's OK, you can open your eyes now. There's no shame in looking.

For over two years, art lovers have satisfied their erotic pleasures by visiting the World Erotic Art Museum. Located at 1205 Washington Ave. on Miami Beach, the 12,000 square-foot museum takes visitors on a journey through sexuality from the dawn of civilization to contemporary times all over the world.

From 11 a.m. to midnight every day for \$15, art aficionados can view a wide variety of art from the mythological, biblical, Victorian, Oriental, tribal and more.

The World Erotic Art Museum is divided into separate rooms with various erotic themes. Visitors can see contemporary pieces such as a poster of The Beatles posing naked or a painting



COURTESY PHOTO /WEAM.COM

ART AND SEX ON SOUTH BEACH

Erotic museum arouses artistic interest

of Lady Godiva running nude through a European marketplace. There's even a wooden Kama Sutra bed with giant eight-foot bedposts shaped like penises.

Although it has only been open for two years, it took owner Naomi Wilzig 15 years to build her personal collection of 4,000 erotic art pieces. It all began when her son, Ivan, asked whether she could find some conversation pieces for his new apartment.

Coming from a religious Jewish family as the wife of a conservative banker, Wilzig at first was unsure of what she was looking for, but curiosity started to set in.

Prior to collecting erotic art, Wilzig collected antiques. She accumulated countless objects from Victorian paintings to old silverware. This was a whole new experience for the grandmother of three. At first, Wilzig didn't have much luck.

"You never know when a dealer finds a piece when they buy an estate. If they find a piece, it's usually hidden away somewhere," Wilzig said.

Several months after her search, Wilzig managed to nab her first piece of art: a shunga, a book on love-making techniques given to Japanese couples after they marry.

She eventually found the conversation pieces her son had asked for but her

collecting had just begun.

When she first started looking for erotic art, she said people looked at her suspiciously because they never expected a woman to ask for such pieces. Eventually, her fascination with erotic art led to artifacts covering all the walls of her home, which spurred the opening of the World Erotic Art Museum.

Her husband didn't look too keenly on what she was doing, but that didn't stop her. She published five books about eroticism, though the first two were published under the pen name Naomi.

"We all lived stifled under his way of how things should be. When he passed away, I took the bull by the horns and sought our own personal freedoms," Wilzig said.

Through her books and museum, Wilzig is trying to break the negative stigma that eroticism has received, even though it has gained more popularity.

"There is a genre of art out there that has been hidden away as it's been shameful and it's not. It's normal, it's healthy, it's the way people live, what they really do, what they really think, what they really achieve in their personal lives," Wilzig said.

FIU Professor Abraham Lavender, like Wilzig, is also trying to break the stigma against eroticism. Lavender, who has taught at the university for 20 years, teaches a course called "Sociology of Sexuality."

Lavender, who was at the opening of the World Erotic Art Museum, gives his students extra credit for visiting the museum and obtaining a world perspective on sexuality.

"It's my job as a professor for students come away with a world perspective of this. It's important to understand why one has the views one has," Lavender said.



COURTESY PHOTO /WEAM.COM

"So much of the negativity comes from our culture. I want them to see how the American culture fits into the world perspective and see how so many of the things that are negative here are actually viewed differently in different parts of the world."

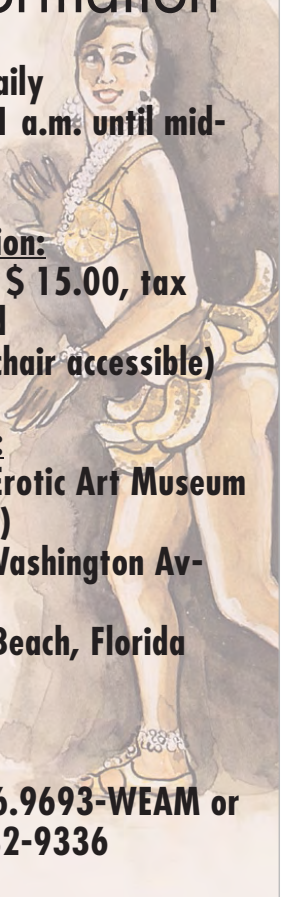
Information

**Open daily
From 11 a.m. until midnight**

**Admission:
Adults- \$ 15.00, tax included
(wheelchair accessible)**

**Address:
World Erotic Art Museum
(WEAM)
1205 Washington Avenue
Miami Beach, Florida
33139
USA**

**Tel: 866.9693-WEAM or
305-532-9336**



Tennis Club needs updated courts to reach the top

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

For just a little over the price of a video game, students can learn to play tennis like a pro ... or at least a highly skilled amateur.

With FIU tennis lessons costing around \$60 for four lessons, it is the best time to see if this sport is right for you.

The FIU Tennis Club, which has 30 active members, was created and recognized by the Student Organization Council in 1999. As of Fall 2007, all sports clubs under SOC became listed under the Recreation Center, which has helped the club establish its budget.

The club is filled with ethnically diverse players from places such as the Bahamas, Venezuela, Chile and Nigeria.

"I think we are one of the most diverse clubs here on campus," said Andres Caceres, co-president of the organization.

Even if a person has never picked up a racket or a tennis ball before, members of the Tennis Club take the time to teach people how to play.

"We have every level of [player], [some] just picking up a racket, and we have players like our number one ranked guy who plays outside the University," Caceres said.

The club has its own ranking system where each member can challenge up to two players above them.

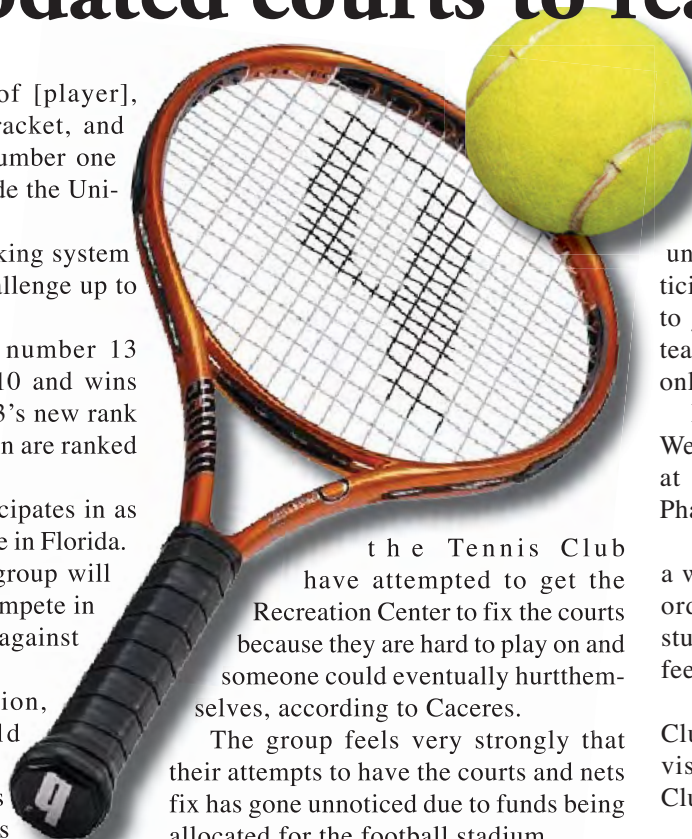
For instance, if player number 13 challenges player number 10 and wins the match, player number 13's new rank would be 10; men and women are ranked separately.

Every year the club participates in as many tournaments as possible in Florida. On March 1 through 2, the group will be heading to Daytona to compete in the Florida Championship against other club division players.

In a previous competition, member Chris Whitfield placed third place.

Although the group uses the FIU Tennis Courts, it is not always safe to play on the courts.

Throughout previous years, members



the Tennis Club have attempted to get the Recreation Center to fix the courts because they are hard to play on and someone could eventually hurt themselves, according to Caceres.

The group feels very strongly that their attempts to have the courts and nets fix has gone unnoticed due to funds being allocated for the football stadium.

"Our goal for the future is to be able to hold tournaments at FIU and we can't do that if we don't have courts available,"

said co-president Maria Concha. "We don't have that because all the courts are in really bad condition."

Other goals are to get competition uniforms and attract more female participants. For those male students seeking to join the University's official tennis team, the club will have to suffice; FIU only has a Women's team.

Meetings are held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the tennis courts located near the Pharmed Arena.

Although the group meets three times a week, meetings are not mandatory. In order to become an official member, students have to pay a \$10 membership fee.

For more information on the Tennis Club, e-mail FIUtennis@gmail.com or visit its Facebook group, FIU Tennis Club.

"[Tennis is] an environment where one could come and make friends and at the same time improve their athletic skills and health," Caceres said.

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Recounting a tragic past

TAVIA LEVY
Contributing Writer

As a young girl, Sadae Kasaoka never dreamed that not having to go to school would save her life.

She had finished cleaning the house when the glass window turned red and exploded, knocking her unconscious.

When Kasaoka awoke she touched her face, only to have her hands come away with blood.

Frightened and knowing something horrible had occurred, she and her grandmother decided to go to the neighborhood air raid shelter.

After they thought it was safe, they left.

Kasaoka had just survived the atomic bomb, which the United States dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on Aug. 6, 1945.

Kasaoka, a hibakusha or, the radiated ones - for having survived the bomb - told her story at a seminar hosted by the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and FIU.

The Foundation's chairman Steve Leeper introduced Kasaoka and her interpreter Elizabeth Baldwin to the audience.

He said their goal is to raise conscientiousness about the dangers of nuclear weapons.

Kasaoka told her story at the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic bomb exhibition. The seminar is the first of two given by FIU and the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation.

They also sponsored the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition Panel Displays which were open from February 25, 2008 to March 8, 2008 in the Graham Center's Panther Suite from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The seminar was held Feb. 25 and 26 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00p.m.in the Graham Center's East Ballroom at University Park.

Describing the gaseous cloud formation visible above the city of Hiroshima after the atomic bomb dropped, Kasaoka remembered that her fellow schoolmates in junior high were sent to help with the demolition work that week.

She was off from school because her class was given the chance to rest. She said, "If it wasn't for God she wouldn't be giving this speech today. So many people died and I could have been one of them."

Kasaoka said the high tide helped the military soldiers collect the dead that washed down the rivers. She spoke passionately as she remembered the devastation she lived through.

She said after her older brother found them; he went looking for their father who he brought home on a cart the next day. She did not recognize her father upon seeing him.

His entire body was charred black, his lips were puffy and his eyelids were gone. She recognized him after only after he spoke what would be his last words, "Find your mother and give me water." She and her grandmother cared for her dad, but they couldn't do much.

She said, "We laid him on his stomach to ease the pain. It was horrible seeing my dominant father so helpless." Kasaoka had heard that giving water to someone burnt that horribly would kill them.

She said, "It hurt her to lie to her dad, I told him the water was poisonous. We also tried to ease his pain by grating the juice of several vegetables on him. The juice dried so quickly that I decided to look in our garden to see what else we had. The only thing left were tomatoes. As I gathered the tomatoes, I looked up to see what I thought were ghosts."

She later realized that it was her neighbors

STARSHIP LANDS IN LAUDERDALE



TIFFANY GARCIA/THE BEACON

SNAKES ON A STAGE: Gabe Saporta and Victoria Asher of rock band Cobra Starship perform at Ft. Lauderdale's Culture Room on Feb. 27.

covered in ash.

They were bleeding and had their skin hanging off as they walked to the military hospital.

Frightened Kasaoka went back inside. Her father soon died from lack of medical attention.

They took his body to the beach and cremated it. Kasaoka's family was not alone, - others were there. She saw a blue flame would come out of the burning bodies.

She thought they were the souls of the people. She imagined that the flames said, "I wanted to get married or I wanted to finish school and get a job."

Kasaoka's mother was found on one of the smaller islands by her two older brothers, but her name was already on the list of deaths.

Kasaoka's family picked up her younger brother who was evacuated to the countryside with the other children.

She has suffered numerous illnesses and, for years, she had sores come up on her body.

She said people thought it was poison. She was discriminated against in finding employment and getting married.

She said, "Back then, [people] thought she would negatively affect their health."

Kasaoka eventually married a fellow hibakusha. He died from cancer at age 35.

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SILLY AND SOPHISTICATED

REVIEWS (YOU CAN USE)

GAME

Lost Odyssey

Sense of nostalgia brought by Final Fantasy creator

LUIS GARCIA
Staff Writer

Two decades ago, Hironobu Sakaguchi changed the very face of gaming when he created "Final Fantasy." Now, having left developer Square-Enix to form his new development house Mistwalker, Sakaguchi's second undertaking on the Xbox 360, "Lost Odyssey," serves as a reminder and tribute to the classic console role-playing games that many grew to love.

Kaim Argonar, the fighter who's about 1,000 years old, seeks to regain his past as advances in technology and magic, along with political unrest and three nations embroiled in war, threaten to destroy the world. Taking a darker, more serious tone as opposed to Mistwalker's "Blue Dragon," "Lost Odyssey" spans a massive tale of life, death, betrayal and joy throughout four discs. While the overall story is good on its own, the true driving force of the story is Kaim's personal trial of rediscovering lost memories. These episodic interludes are written by acclaimed novelist Kiyoshi Shigematsu (with translation by Jay Rubin), providing the emotional crux for "Lost Odyssey's" tragic hero.

Anyone familiar with old-school console RPGs will feel right at home with the gameplay.

Traditional turn-based combat rules the day with a few strategic touches. Immortals can gain new skills and abilities while mortals simply need to level up. Immortals can also self-recover if they fall whereas mortals require resuscitation. Party formation is also important: front-row fighters act as a damage buffer for the back row; attacks to the back row can interfere with spell casting time, thus making party form a key factor in victory. Characters can be further customized through equipment and rings. With a simple press and release of the right trigger during an



COURTESY PHOTO

attack, rings can bestow additional effects. Although simple enough and offering nothing novel, the game play is executed with solid results and balances simplicity, strategy and challenge.

Also, "Lost Odyssey's" visuals are a feast for the eyes. While occasional frame rate hiccups are occasional in some events, the game is, for the most part, beautiful.

Accompanying the lush eye candy, famed composer Nobuo Uematsu (also of "Final Fantasy" accolade) delivers a top-notch soundtrack that breathes more life into the game's world. The voice work for the characters does a fine job of not sounding too cheesy and Japanese dialog is also available.

"Lost Odyssey" does not seek to reinvent the wheel in any way. Rather, it is a testament to the old-school RPGs and players, who still endure even in the face of new wave gaming today.

MOVIE

Margot at the Wedding

Despite its limited release, film will make you say 'I do'

JOSEPH MARHEE
Opinion Editor

On March 4, the DVD release of Noah Baumbach's fourth feature length film, "Margot at the Wedding," hit store shelves. Originally only shown at the Telluride, Toronto, and New York film festival, the film had a very limited theatrical release in the U.S. in Nov. 2007.

The movie features stunning performances from Nicole Kidman in a surprising role as the misanthropic and shamelessly honest Margot, Jack Black as Margot's sister's emotionally disconnected fiancé and Jennifer Jason Leigh as Pauline, Margot's free spirited sister.

The plot, albeit original, is simple: Margot, a writer, attends her estranged sister's wedding but almost immediately begins planting seeds of doubt by pointing out Pauline's quirks that may be signs of being a poor mate.

Margot and Pauline begin reverting to a child-like sibling rivalry: Margot climbs a tall tree in the yard after Pauline more or less dares her and consequently, a rescue crew has to coax Margot down.

It's refreshing to see a film that, while maybe reminiscent of any other sibling rivalry story, is so unformulaic in that the peripheral characters really pull the whole thing together.

Jack Black's performance is hilarious: Malcolm, an unemployed artist who displays some autistic tendencies, constantly is changing the subject as if he were speaking the whole time.

This film, despite its very original screenplay, is vaguely reminiscent of the French writer-director, Eric Rohmer (known for his comic-relationship film "Le Genou de Claire"); the character-driven films often involve relationships, but with large amounts of awkwardness.



COURTESY PHOTO

Baumbach has skewed this formula by pushing the awkwardness to the max and incorporating it into a central part of Margot and Malcolm's parts, with Pauline's lackadaisical style to balance it out.

"Margot at the Wedding" displayed a huge stylistic shift in Baumbach himself.

His previous films, "The Squid and The Whale" and "Kicking and Screaming" specifically, rely more on subtlety and the assumption that the audience is just as well-read as the characters in the story.

With "Margot at the Wedding," Baumbach's work seems to have an easier-to-follow story and more recognizable actors, while retaining his ability to pen an almost irreverently original screenplay.

I strongly recommend the film for anyone who has seen any of Baumbach's films, but for those new to his work, a better jumping off point might be 2005's "The Squid and the Whale" or his 1994 critically acclaimed "Kicking and Screaming."

GAME

Dynasty Street

Simplicity at its best; stick figures make a comeback



F.R.E.E
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ASHLYN TOLEDO

Stick figures haven't always been seen in the brightest of lights.

For years, they have been a symbol of inadequacy in the world of art - an easy way out.

"Dynasty Street," a flash fighting game from Dissolute Productions, is bringing stick figures back.

No longer will shame be brought to the simplistic artist.

Stick figure enthusiasts the world over will soon learn to embrace their love for lines and they owe it all to this great game.

In "Dynasty Street," you play as a stick figure agent trained in the fighting arts who has been handed a mission by an unidentified agency.

Your ultimate goal: defeat the cleverly named "Reds" - red versions of yourself.

You are instructed to infiltrate their base, destroying all "Reds" in your path.

There are three modes of game play and a dojo in which you learn the basics of moving and fighting.

Enter the dojo first for a brief overview and a chance to summon "Reds" at your will.

You can also practice your skills with grenades, mines and various other weapons. Take your time and get some practice before trying the other modes in the game.

Adventure mode is where you play through the actual story.

It's short, (very short) with only three levels, but definitely still worth your time.

Tournament and Survival modes are where you will spend most of your time, though.

Survival mode will test your skills in



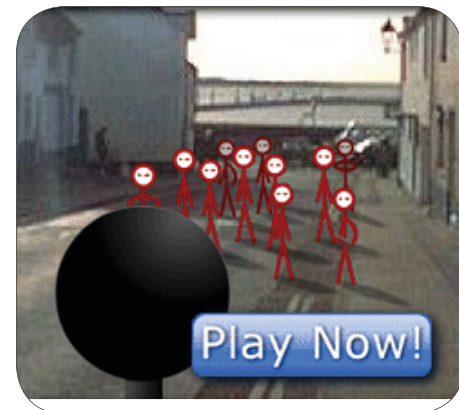
COURTESY PHOTO

the arena, adding a new opponent every two seconds.

See how long you can stick it out and try to beat your best score.

In tournament mode, you will advance through different areas, with each area holding one more enemy than the last.

All three modes feature various arms such as nunchucks, swords and throwing stars, as well as health packs to help you along.



COURTESY PHOTO

"Dynasty Street" is a simple game that offers pure, simple fun.

Yes, it is short, but the game looks and plays great with the sounds of The Prodigy, creators of the popular title "Smack My Bitch Up," playing throughout.

You might be surprised at just how quickly you get hooked.

Shock yourself at www.newgrounds.com, where you can find the game - for free.

BASEBALL NOTEBOOK

Sophomore among offensive leaders in Sun Belt Conference

LUCA MESSINA
Staff Writer

Tyler Townsend was not going to stop playing, especially after an impressive freshman campaign in which he hit .338 with five home runs and 32 RBI. Despite his good numbers last season, Townsend's nagging shoulder injury really kept him from reaching his full potential.

"In the beginning of the year, I felt I played really good and then I sort of dealt with injuries a little bit," said Townsend, a sophomore from Lewes, Del. "I sort of backed off and didn't finish as strong as I wanted to, but I felt that it was a pretty strong freshman season."

After an off-season shoulder surgery to repair a torn labrum and a slightly torn rotator cuff, Townsend has responded with an impressive start to the young season. Just 11 games into the season, Townsend has hit five home runs and recorded 20 RBI.

Townsend also has the third best average on the team behind leader Jorge Castillo and Raimy Fuentes.

"I feel a hundred times better," Townsend said.

Townsend has seen time at both designated hitter and at first base.

"I like playing first base a lot more ... You're in the game more," Townsend said. "At DH, you just sit there. At first base, you keep your blood flowing. I just like being a part of the game more."

He is also aware of his hot start that has helped to carry the Golden Panthers to a decent start offensively.

"I've been seeing the ball real well so far, and I'm just trying to get as many RBI as possible," Townsend said. "I just want to help us win. If that's what it takes, I'm going to keep on doing it."



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

HOT HITTING: Sophomore Tyler Townsend has three home runs and 10 RBI through eleven games.

ALSO HITTING WELL

Senior first baseman Jorge Castillo is hitting well and now leads the team in hitting with a .450 average. He is currently on a six-game hitting streak. Castillo is second on the team with three home runs and third on the team with 10 RBI.

Welcome to the team kid

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

The baseball team has 17 new players on the 35-man roster. The list includes nine freshmen, two sophomore transfers, two junior transfers, one senior transfer, two first-year seniors and a sophomore who played his freshman year in 2006 but did not play in 2007.

Sports Replay

MEN'S BASKETBALL

After defeating Florida Atlantic two times during the regular season, the Golden Panthers' season came to an end on March 5, as they lost 91-64 in the opening round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

The loss was the team's 20th of the season as they failed to reach double-digit wins this season.

The FAU Owls' offense could not be stopped from anywhere on the floor. They shot over 50 percent from the field including 66 percent from three-point range.

In addition to the Owls' prowess, they also out-rebounded the Golden Panthers 40-23.

Cardero Nwoji led all scorers while junior center Russell Hicks led the Golden Panthers with 18 points.

Carlos Monroe recorded a double-double by halftime; he headed into the second half with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The 3-point shot sank FIU early as the Owls hit their first four three-pointers, and they hit 7-of-11 during the first half.

For the Golden Panthers,

the 3-point shot was not as friendly. They shot 4-of-18 from three-point range.

Five minutes into the game, the Golden Panthers trailed 18-5. After losing by double digits for the majority of the game, FIU inched its way close cutting the lead to eight with six minutes to play in the first half. Sean Alarcon and Nwoji helped the Owls rebuild the lead back to as many as 19.

The Golden Panthers came out the second half scoring the first four points, but Alarcon and Nwoji hit two three-pointers to dismiss the possibility of a late comeback.

Hicks did record four shot blocks to give him 60 on the year, which is a new school record.

Senior guard Chris Fuller played his last game for the Golden Panthers, but he did not score a point.

Junior guard Alex Galindo could not find the mark either as he shot just 3-of-11 from three-point range and 3-of-13 overall.

The Golden Panthers ties the second worst loss this season. The worst was against the University of Kentucky when they lost 92-49.

Compiled by Sergio Bonilla

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TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Middle Tennessee	7-1-1	0-0	.833
Troy	9-2	0-0	.818
New Orleans	7-2	0-0	.778
Western Kentucky	5-2	0-0	.714
South Alabama	7-3	0-0	.700
ULM	5-3	0-0	.625
Florida Atlantic	6-4	0-0	.600
Arkansas State	5-4	0-0	.556
Florida International	5-6	0-0	.455
Louisiana-Lafayette	4-6	0-0	.400
UALR	2-8	0-0	.200

*All records up to date as of March 7, 2008

SUN BELT LEADERS

HITS		DOUBLES	
Min 2.0 AB		Min 2.0 AB	
McKenna FAU	18	Hines MT	7
Fuentes FIU	16	Fuentes FIU	6
5 tied with 15 hit(s)		4 tied with 5 double(s)	
RBI		HOME RUNS	
Min 2.0 AB		Min 2.0 AB	
Brentz MT	17	Brentz MT	4
Jernigan USA	16	Cook FAU	4
Fuentes FIU	16	7 tied with 3 home run(s)	
Townsend FIU	15		
TRIPLES		RUNS SCORED	
Min 2.0 AB		Min 2.0 AB	
McGonigle, M UNO	2	Baxter, T.J. UNO	16
Hines MT	2	Kruml USA	15
15 tied with 1 triple(s)		5 tied with 13 run(s) scored	

Golden Panthers' offense rebounds from first game

BASEBALL, page 12

scored four runs on three hits to go ahead for good 7-3.

Freshman Jorge Marban allowed three earned runs, recording his first loss of the season.

FIU 13, MAINE 6

The Golden Panthers compensated for their weak offensive output in the first game by scoring 13 runs on 17 hits off of the Black Bears.

The Black Bears jumped out to an early 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning off of starter Kyle Preshong. In the bottom half of the first inning, Townsend launched a two-run home run to left-centerfield to cut the score to 3-2.

Two batters later, Castillo put FIU ahead 4-3 with another two-run home run to right field off of Maine starter Joel Thorney.

Senior James Lajiness

relieved Preshong in the top of the second inning only to allow a solo home run to designated hitter Kevin Jackson that tied the score 4-4.

Maine went ahead for the final time in the third inning after an RBI groundout by catcher Myckie Lugbauer.

The Golden Panthers responded with a three-run inning on two runs and an error.

FIU added on five more runs in the fifth inning to eventually win 13-6.

"I was pleased with how we did, even though [in] the last two or three innings we didn't do anything offensively," Thomas said.

Sophomore Daniel DeSimone earned his second save of the season after pitching three scoreless innings of relief. Castillo finished 3-for-4 with a home run, two RBI and two runs scored.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

BULLPEN BACKUP: Senior reliever James Lajiness pitched four innings to earn the win against Maine.

Basketball's biggest fans: family members, band

ATTENDANCE, page 12

packages, raffles, tailgate parties, contests and the jersey retirements of Raja Bell and Carlos Arroyo.

Only the jersey retirements seemed to have a positive effect on fan turnout, but those games also happened to be against backyard rivals UM and FAU.

FIU sports teams may not have the most fans, but that is not to say that FIU sports teams do not have fans.

There are quite a few regulars fans at FIU basketball games.

Mike Hassle, who has been attending women's basketball games since 1992,

describes the atmosphere inside of games as "meh."

Other regulars at games usually include fellow student athletes and the friends and family members of the players.

The most vocal supporters of FIU basketball are the FIU Courtside Players, the band that plays during games.

The FIU Courtside Players perform at every game.

They play numerous fight songs and help provide a home court edge inside of the Pharmed Arena.

The FIU Courtside Players have been known to heckle opponents on the foul

line. They will make sure an opposing player is aware if they shoot an air ball.

Playing basketball in Miami also does not help the basketball team, because Miami is one of the most popular cities in the country.

There are countless other activities

through out the city that college students can enjoy such as going to bars or clubs.

The bottom line is FIU students do not pay much attention to FIU sports.

CLASSIFIEDS

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SUMMER JOBS: Recreation Camp Counselors/Supervisors for summer recreation program 6/09/08-8/01/08 for children ages 5-14. WSI/Lifeguard and Maintenance Aides (5/08-9/08). Exp. desirable. City of Plantation (west of Ft. Lauderdale) 400 NW 73 Ave., Plantation, FL 33317 or www.plantation.org to download application.

Photographers Needed. Bob Knight Photo is currently hiring part-time photographers to work local college and high school graduation ceremonies in May, June, August, and December. Applicants must understand basic digital SLR cameras, own a dark colored business suit, possess a conservative appearance, and attend two paid mandatory training sessions on April 16 and 25 from 6pm to 9pm. We have plenty of work throughout May but all photographers need to be available on weekends in May and the first week of June. Pay is \$50.00 per event. Please visit www.bkhire.com <<http://www.bkhire.com/>> for additional information and to fill out an application.

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Where is the support?

Lack of fans irks players, coaches

DARREN COLLETTE
Staff Writer

Cindy Russo has been coaching women's basketball since 1977. During her tenure as head coach of FIU - 29 seasons - Russo has won over 600 games, an achievement that only 12 coaches before Russo have accomplished.

Russo shares a long history with FIU and the women's basketball program, but when she walks onto the court before a game, even Russo feels discouraged when she looks into the crowd.

"Sometimes when I come out and we start a game, I have to hold back [a tear]. I want to choke up," Russo said. "It is unfortunate that our students don't support us and understand the combination of what we can do for them and what they can do for the school by filling this gym up and making a statement."

According to the Sun Belt Conference's web site, both of the FIU basketball teams' attendance figures are at the bottom of the conference.

Currently, the men's basketball team averages 876 fans a game, and the women's basketball team averages 342 fans a game.

According to athletics director Pete Garcia, the attendance figures do not



factor in fans who leave games early.

This creates the illusion that the stands are empty throughout the game.

"When you get an attendance figure of X amount, it is all the fans that have come through the gate at some point during the game," Garcia said. "One thing we have here is people who come in for a quarter or for a half then leave. They will come in [the game during] the second half when they were never here in the first half."

At numerous women's games this season, the lower bowl seats seem to have held less than 30 people, even when there was a double-header.

Senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson said the attendance numbers have been low

Cindy Russo, Women's basketball head coach

It is unfortunate that our students don't support us and understand the combination of what we can do for them and what they can do for the school by filling this gym up and making a statement.

since she first started to play at FIU.

"I have been here five years and it has pretty much been the same," Ferguson said. "We hoped for a different outlook, but it did not happen. I am not surprised; this is Miami. [Miami] is not really a basketball city. As long as there are a few faithful fans that come to every game, they are the ones who count."

Some people may be quick to point a finger at the FIU Athletics department and blame them for the poor turnout at games.

However, the marketing and ticket sales departments have made efforts to increase fan turnout with special ticket

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FIRST ROUND WIN



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

MOVING ON: Senior Jasmine Jenkins 11 points and eight rebounds in the team's 68-57 victory over win over Denver on March 5. The full story is online at www.fiusm.com.

BASEBALL; GAME 1 BOSTON COLLEGE 7, FIU 3; GAME 2: FIU 13, MAINE 6

Bullpen loses game in eighth, despite starters' quality outing

LUCA MESSINA
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers (5-6) once again split a pair of week-day games on March 4-5, falling to Boston College (5-3) 7-3 in a close game and defeating the University of Maine (4-5) 13-6 at University Park Stadium.

"We got to figure things out a little bit better," said coach Turtle Thomas. "I think we're starting to figure out our bullpen a little bit more. We got just to adjust to that higher level of competition."

BOSTON COLLEGE 7, FIU 3

This is the second year in a row that FIU could not defeat the Eagles. The Golden Panthers fell 7-3 after mustering only three hits.

"We played hard," Thomas

said. "Steven Stewart wriggled out of a lot of jams. In baseball, you call it making your way through traffic."

Stewart was making his second start as a Golden Panther.

The Eagles jumped out to an early 2-0 lead after designated hitter Mike Augustine hit a two-run home run in the second inning that was just a little too far for the outstretched glove of FIU right fielder Javier Sujo.

FIU responded in the bottom half of that frame as sophomore Tyler Townsend launched a solo home run to left field off of Eagles starter Nick Asselin.

Stewart would leave after six innings with the score still at 2-1. He allowed two earned runs on eight hits and recorded a walk and three strikeouts.

"He made some really good

pitches. I was very pleased with him. He did a nice job," Thomas said.

The Golden Panthers tied the score in the bottom of the sixth when Townsend drove in senior Corey Lozano on a groundout to Eagles' first baseman Michael Belfiore.

After freshman Garret Trezona relieved Stewart in the top of the seventh inning, Boston College right fielder Barry Butera launched a solo home run to right field to once again put the Eagles ahead 3-2.

FIU tied the score for the last time in the bottom of the seventh after a bases loaded walk by BC starter Nick Asselin, which brought home Jorge Castillo.

In the top of the eighth, BC

BASEBALL, page 11

VACANT STANDS: Women's basketball plays against Louisiana Lafayette on Feb. 6 at the Pharmed Arena. The attendance for the game was 436, according to fiusports.com

VICTORIA LYNCH/
BEACON FILE PHOTO