Won’t You Be My NEIGHBOR?

With the completion of their new fraternity house approaching, Pi Kappa Alpha moves closer to home.

By PROVIDENCE OKOYE
Staff Writer

A new fraternity house is being built at the entrance of University Park. The house, which costs approximately $1.7 million, is the new home for the Greek fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha, also known as PIKE.

“This is the second Greek housing being built on an FIU campus, and we are proud of it,” said Larry W. Lunsford, assistant vice president of the University and Ombudsman for Student Affairs.

The PIKE house is being constructed to the right of the Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) house in the area carved out for Greek housing, which is at the 107th avenue entrance to FIU.

The builders are JNC Contractors, and the monthly maintenance costs are estimated at approximately $15,000.

“The bulk of the money we got came from PIKE alumni and fundraising,” said PIKE member Manny Niebla, a junior majoring in marine biology.

A bank loan in form of mortgage covered the rest of the cost that alumni and fundraising couldn’t cover.

“Great. It’s about time,” said FIJI member Wil Almarales, a senior majoring in computer and electrical engineering, when asked about how he felt about his soon-to-be neighbors. “It’s pretty lonely out there and I’m happy for them.”

With 16 rooms and a capacity to house 36 members, a house director or resident assistant, which is about $700 less than housing on campus.

The construction should be completed by mid-October of this year. But according to Lunsford, “it would not be open for housing until the spring of next year.”

The PIKE house is the second fraternity house to debut on campus. The FIJI house was the first Greek house to be built at FIU after a donation of about $1.2 million from FIJI alumni R. Kirk Landon.

The FIJI house has a capacity to house 34 people. It costs approximately $380 a month for fraternity members on a 12-month contract, and $450 a month for non-members.

But other students don’t see a problem with occupying the house. “Definitely, I would live there,” said Niebla, when asked if he would consider moving in to the new house, “as a fraternity, we are excited to contribute to FIU and increase the school spirit that comes along with Greek housing.”

According to Lünsford, three more Greek houses are scheduled for construction, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Tau Kappa Epsilon and eventually, Sigma Alpha Mu.

“It’s a nice house, the second one being built. Well what can I say! [Tau Kappa Epsilon was] supposed to be second but we’ll be next, so I’m happy!” said Tau Kappa Epsilon member Alberto Robles, a sophomore.

Knock, knock: The PIKE house (right) will open for residency in October 2004 and will be sharing the block with the FIJI fraternity members. (ALEJANDRA DIAZ/The Beacon)

In addition, the construction of the building is being taken under advisement by the Ombudsman, Aldo Guerrero, a sophomore.

Although on the first floor of the building, Guerrero has been working to get the house ready to house 34 people.

According to Guerrero, a sophomore majoring in finance, “It’s a hard task, but it’s such a mission.”

 Guerrero added that the students are expecting to encourage other members of the fraternity and community to look at the building as a welcoming place.

Guerrero’s goal is to attract more Greek houses in the area, and one being built. Well what can I say! [Tau Kappa Epsilon was] supposed to be second but we’ll be next, so I’m happy!” said Tau Kappa Epsilon member Alberto Robles, a sophomore.

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Fitness class offers motivation to exercise

mainly focuses on weight training, Theosevis recommends to also incorporate cardiovascular exercises to get a better result. Donna Wyborny, the Campus Fitness Center administrative assistant, is one of the faculty members who is enrolled in the class and is expecting to lose some weight with the program.

“I feel like I needed a change in my work out and I’ve never really worked out with a group with weights and I think that I could learn how to lift,” Wyborny said.

Another faculty member who joined the program is Vivian Jorge, the National Hurricane Center administrative officer.

“Well with the class, I expect to gain more muscle and burn fat,” Jorge said.

Both Theosevis and Ardzion have experience in weight training. Ardzion has been working at FIU for more than five years and Theosevis started working at FIU last October.

Theosevis has a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing and a Master of Science in Education with a concentration in Sports Management. She looks forward to moving to the New Recreation Center that is estimated to be completed by this Fall.

“We are here as a motivation and just to encourage women to start taking care of their bodies and realizing the importance of weight lifting and that women do not have to lift heavy weights to get results,” Theosevis said. “I recommend the class to any body, fit or unfit, it is never late to start working out.”

Last spring, most of the class members were students and the class incorporated an aerobic work out with some weight training. One of those students is Chantal Clement, a major in international business student who took an aerobics class in Summer A.

“I feel like I needed a change in my work out and I’ve never really worked out with a group with weights and I think that I could learn how to lift,” Wyborny said.

Many students think that taking these kind of fitness classes are good in order to keep them in shape.

Stephanie Abreu, a major in physical education, also took an aerobics class, there is a bigger motivation to work out,” Dalal said.

Raynelle Boisserie, an MIS Alumna took a spinning class and thought it was a good experience.

“It gave me more energy,” Boisserie said.

“With the class, I expect to keep in shape,” Abreu said.

“Fitness class is not only for the physically fit, it is never too late to start working out.”

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THE BEACON – JULY 19, 2004

Marine Biology complex expands program options

By ANDREIA FLORES
Contributing Writer

The new Marine Biology building at the Biscayne Bay Campus will not only add more classrooms, but will also bring excitement and new opportunities to FIU.

The 57,000-square foot laboratory will be located just behind the Wolfe University Center and AC1. “We will finally have a building that promises to take full advantage of the bay view,” said Julio Esteban, a major in business administration.

It will have five classrooms and four teaching labs including the future Symposium room which will have a capacity for 115 students.

“Classes for non-marine biology majors will be held at the new building,” said Christopher L. Brown, director of the marine biology program. He is the former director of the Hawaiian Institute of Marine Biology, and founder of the Hawaiian Aquaculture Association. His proven experience, creativity and hard work will be essential as the conceptual planner of the lab.

Modesto A. Maidique, the President of FIU, approved the building in 2002. The Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) approved the use of $11 million for the construction of the building. Maidique approved $1.75 million for the design. The total cost of this project will be $12.75 million and will be completed by the fall of 2005.

There will be an aquarium room with continuous sea water and air supply. It will be available to house specimens and research projects. “It is very exciting to be a part of this innovative project,” said Valerie Hall, the program’s secretary.

There are currently 26 students majoring in marine biology. “We teach a course called Introductory Marine Biology which is for non-majors, usually a few hundred people take it each year,” said Dr. Brown.

The degree program was established in October of 2001. Before that, students who dreamed of becoming marine biologists and staying in the state of Florida had limited options. They could move to St. Petersburg or Melbourne or pay the high tuition fees at the University of Miami.

Now, the marine biology program at FIU will not only have capacity for more students and an exceptional faculty, but will also offer those who dream of swimming with the dolphins and living a life with sea creatures an opportunity to experience that at FIU.

DESIGNERS WANTED!

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

By GRETIEL SAMINIENTO
Guest Columnist

I was sent to pick her up. My mother had explained to me that Yolanda was very depressed, that she cannot take it anymore, and her daughter is the only thing keeping her alive.

At first, I thought it was one of those crises women go through, and I begged my mother: “Do I really have to?” Unfortunately, I had no other choice. I arrived at her house at 11:15 a.m. She was ready. That is when I realized she was really ill. In the past, this woman had made me wait as much as an hour, but not today. Today, she was ready!

That could only mean she was desperate to get out, desperate for her freedom, for her house, from her mind, and everything else that was killing her.

She received me with a big smile, but I could see still the pain and sadness in her eyes. She looked like a tired old woman but she was my mother’s age. I wondered how much suffering this woman had felt, and how many horrible experiences she had lived.

I had never met a person who wanted to end her life before, but as I drove back home I heard her story and realized that hers was not a unique pain, but a feeling shared by many people living here in the United States.

Yolanda came to the United States 14 years ago. It is certainly easy to say, to hear, but leaving her mother, husband and sisters was not an easy decision. Unfortunately, her daughter’s illness did not leave her another option. She hoped to find the treatment for a condition that was unknown in Cuba.

That is how she became another Cuban accused of betraying her country and joining “la mafia de Miama,” (the mafia of Miami) as Castro would put it.

Yolanda fears for her sisters and husband; “What is going to happen to them?” As I listened to her, I wondered the same. I felt not only sadness and fear, but also disappointment. I, like Yolanda and many other Cubans, thought I was escaping from everything called Castro who controlled every aspect of our lives.

I could not travel, nor speak my thoughts, nor give my opinions. I lived in a cage and was promised the land of opportunity, so I came here, only to realize this was the same.

“I could not travel, nor speak my thoughts, nor give my opinions. I lived in a cage and was promised the land of opportunity, so I came here, only to realize it was the same here.”

She read my mind and said: “This is the same st**, just a wealthy Cuba.”

As I made the right turn that would finally bring me home, she started drying her eyes. Now, I could understand her suffering, her wrinkled eyes and deplorable condition. I could not only understand her but understand and empathize with Cuban as well. I felt lucky to have my parents and sister here, yet this woman’s experience was so familiar to me. I realized it was not only Yolanda’s sad episode but it could be mine too.

This pain did not have a name or a face. It did not belong to anybody.

I proceeded to imagine my cousins, my dear grandparents, and I wondered how many daughters and sons will lose their parents in these three years.

I looked at Yolanda and remembered the old lady who goes to the agency and sends money to her son, I remembered the woman who last week bought a little truck for her sister’s in K-Mart.

The woman who could not decide which one is better for his father: the black pair of shoes or the brown sandal? He cannot get both pairs because he is only allowed to take 44 pounds with him, and there are still eight more relatives to think about.

I suddenly realized “Hitler” wasn’t too severe a word to describe a person who was making people like Yolanda more miserable than they already were.

“We are here,” I said.

She was happy to see my mother, even happier when she heard Mom say: “I bought bocaditos.”

Then, before I could forget the sad story and submerge myself again in a world of television and superficiality, I gave

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
What do you think keeps many students from voting?

• I think most students do vote.
  2%

• Students often feel their vote doesn’t count; that’s why many aren’t even registered to vote.
  24%

• A lot of students don’t vote because they’re unaware of the issues and have “more important things to do” than find them out.
  55%

• They’re still trying to cure their weekend hangover.
  20%

Total participants: 51
Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER
Denver, Colo.: A study by DirectTV showed that Denver had the highest percentage rate of fanatical sports fans in the United States.

LOSER
Whosopi Goldberg: The comedian/actress was recently dumped from her Slim-Fast Foods advertisements after bashing the president by jokingly using his surname in a sexual manner at a democratic fundraiser at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

QUOTEABLES

“If you left a B vitamin sitting there, that would get on TV and you’d have to buy it.”
– Will Smith, comedian, on presidential candidate Ralph Nader

“I’m the type of person that it’s important for me to share. When I experience something that is special and incredible, I like to share it with people. Anyone who’s using dry outhouse paper, you’re not really doing yourself the true service.”
– Will Smith, actor/pop artist, expressing himself on BBC-Radio.

“People have evolved.”
– Stephen Hawking, after admitting that information can, in fact, escape a black hole: A conceit that has caused him to lose a longstanding bet to fellow physicist, John Preskill.

“If you thought he could win, he wouldn’t even attempt to break into his hotel room in search of substances you say that he’s not serious. If he thought he could win, he wouldn’t even

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“If you thought he could win, he wouldn’t even

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

By TERESA GUBBINS
The Dallas Morning News

The calendar may say 2004, but turn on the radio and you’ll feel as if you are totally in the ’80s.

Your ears do not deceive you: That is definitely “Take My Breath Away” airing on contemporary radio, though a different version than the one by Berlin (used so dramatically in the film “Top Gun”), as done by the Ataris to The Cure’s “Love Song” (by 311) to No Doubt’s remake of “It’s My Life”. These blasts from the past keep piling up, and they’re turning “modern rock” radio into oldies stations: from Don Henley’s “Boys of Summer” (as done by the Ataris) to The Cure’s “Love Song” (by 311) to No Doubt’s remake of “It’s My Life” by one-hit wonder Talk Talk.

What next: Flock of Seagulls? Ouch, yes, and we have the band Bowling for Soup to curse for covering the Flock’s “I Ran (So Far Away).”

There’s no single villain to blame for leading popular music to this sorry state. But these “pioneers” deserve some of the credit.

The Ataris were early perpetrators with their 2003 cover of “Boys of Summer,” helping make it OK within the twentysomething set to embrace ’80s songs. In late 2003, Sony released a compilation called Never Mind the Originals, Here’s the Covers with too, too many ’80s tunes, including “Take on Me” by A-Ha (performed by Reel Big Fish) and Nena’s “99 Red Balloons” (performed by Goldfinger). The soundtrack to “50 First Dates” piled on in early ’04 with its own retro collection of covers of ’80s acts such as Echo & the Bunnymen, the Police and The Cure.

But in the end, it’s a generational thing. Most acts doing ’80s covers are in their 20s. The ’80s are when they grew up. The ’80s are their roots.

Ataris singer Kris Roe explained his connection to “Boys of Summer” on WB music series Pepsi Smash as a personal thing. “I used to go down and visit my grandparents in Florida every summer,” he said on the show. “And my grandmother, I actually remember asking her to take me out and buy that record. When it came out, I was like 9 years old. And my grandmother, she passed away like three years ago. So that song is kind of personal for me, and kind of reminds me of my grandmother and those summers I used to spend in Florida.”

Jessica Simpson had her own first-hand experience with “Take My Breath Away.” “It was a special song for me and my relationship with my husband,” she says of Nick Lachey. “We had our first kiss to it. The first time Nick hugged me, I played it in the car after I was driving home. Cheesy stuff like that made me want to do it myself.”

Both Simpson and Bowling for Soup have used these covers to beef up albums they’ve reissued — and nabbed surprise hit singles in the process. You know what that means: more ’80s covers, coming your way.

Here’s the current crop, each with its own individual rating of how well the new band does compared to the original:

**Berlin vs. Jessica Simpson:**
“Take My Breath Away”
Simpson gets four Tom Cruise Beaming Grins out of five for selecting a song that so perfectly enhances her glossy ’80s image.

**The Cure vs. 311:**
“Love Song”
311 gets three Robert Smith Kohl Black Eyeliner Pencils out of five for giving this Cure song a reggae twist.

**Don Henley vs. the Ataris:**
“Boys of Summer”
The Ataris set the standard for ’80s covers by making woolly behemoth activist Don Henley seem hip. They get five Historic Tree Seedlings out of five.

**Talk Talk vs. No Doubt:**
“It’s My Life”
Gwen Stefani gets only two Skinny Black Neckties out of five for trying to outdo emotive original singer Mark Hollis.

**The Go-Go’s vs. Hillary Duff:**
“Our Lips Are Sealed”
Duff chooses her ’80s cut wisely, it fits like a glove. She gets four Cucumber Facials out of five.

**Flock of Seagulls vs. Bowling for Soup:**
“I Ran (So Far Away)”
The BFS guys should have their heads shaved for bringing back such a dreadful (though certainly classic) ’80s track. But wait, their heads are shaved already. Let’s give them five Foo-Foo Haircuts out of five.
A new kind of sunscreen hit-ting the U.S. market promises not only to fend off sunburns but also to protect against jellyfish stings. Researchers at Stanford Uni-versity Medical School tested the new product, called SafeSea, on two dozen volunteers and found it “relatively effective” in inhibiting jellyfish stings.

“We prevent stings most of the time,” said Alex Kimball, an assistant professor of dermatology who directed the study, funded in part by the manu-facturer, Nidari Technology. It was published in the journal, Wilderness and Environmental Medicine.

Israeli researchers developed the cream after noticing that clownfish—of “Finding Nemo” fame—do not get stung by jellyfish. They isolated the chemical that seemed to protect the little orange and white fish and incorporated the substance into a sunscreen solution.

“It’s not like a barrier that would protect your skin, the way a sunblock does,” Kimball explained. “It’s more like the jellyfish detects the chemical on you and it doesn’t sting you.” At least, that’s what seemed to occur when jellyfish were given a chance to sting the 24 people in her experiment. (Most of the subjects were surfers who had been stung before.)

SafeSea was swabbed on one arm of each volunteer and re-gu-lar sunscreen on the other arm. Jellyfish tentacles were placed on their arms for up to 60 seconds to see what would happen. Five of the 24 subjects reported “discomfort” on the arm protected with SafeSea, whereas 22 of them had pain and swelling on the plain sunscreen arm.

That was good news to marine biologist Paul Montagna, a jel-lifyfish expert at the University of Texas’ Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas. Until now, marine experts could only recommend using sunscreen to fend jellyfish stings. “There are lots of oppor-tunities for people to get stung. I don’t know this product but hope it works.”

SafeSea is available online at www.nidari.com and other sites.
Soccer player Tamara Kochen competes overseas

By NATALIE SABIA
Staff Writer

FIU’s very own Tamara Kochen is a unique member of her team due to her overseas experience in Israel. She recently competed on the Israeli National Team against Kazakhstan on May 30.

Her team finished with a 3-1 victory in the contest and won first place in its European Championship qualifying group. Israel is now just one victory away from their chance to enter the European Championship in the summer of 2005 if they beat the European Championship in Belaros this September.

As a junior and a major in business management, Kochen also plans forward for the Golden Panthers and was the first Israeli-born player to play for a U.S. college.

Playing on the soccer field since she was 4 year old, Kochen was ambitious to join a league as a child, despite the fact that Israel didn’t have one available until she was seventeen.

“As soon as I heard a league was going to open, I got into a club team in a town nearby,” said Kochen. Kochen’s first game was such a success, the Israeli National team coach, Roni Schindler ventured to a second game to keep his eyes peeled for any team leaders on the field.

“He decided to invite me to practice with the national team and I have been part of the team ever since,” said Kochen.

Growing up in the small town of Kfar-Silver, Kochen’s only open window to meet friends was to play soccer.

“It’s a very small place, you can’t even call it a town,” said Kochen.

Born and raised there, because of her father’s job at an Israeli school, Kochen simply grew to love and respect the only true thing she looked forward too: soccer.

As a Golden Panther last season, Kochen finished with 1 goal, 1 assist and 3 points. She leads her team with a .028 shot percentage and is in the fourth in points with a total of 3.

According to coaches, Kochen, is a very fast and skillful player. She attended the University of Missouri her freshman year, where she played in 15 games and scored two goals. This opportunity was a challenge.

“My first year was very hard, I didn’t speak English at all,” said Kochen. Although her stay in Missouri wasn’t very long, Kochen quickly made her presence noticed.

She earned a membership on the Commissioner’s Honor Roll for three straight semesters and scored 32 goals as a member of the ASSA Tel-Aviv Team, which won the Israel Women’s League Championship.

Tamara Kochen is the first Israeli-born player to play for a U.S. college. She led the Golden Panthers with a .28 shot percentage.
In the 2003 season opener starting quarterback Jamie Burke, who left the final game of the previous campaign with a season-ending surgery. Burke is expected back by the start of training camp and now the starting quarterback position is up for grabs.

Burke, who left the final game starting, quarterback Jamie Padrick performed well in the previous year. His performance when Burke dislocated his shoulder against FAU and Tabor came in to replace him. Whether it’s Padrick or Burke, it will depend heavily on when players report to training camp on Aug. 8.

Burke performed well in 2003, passing for 2,493 yards and taking less sacks (23) than Burke (38 in ’02). He did however, throw as many interceptions as touchdowns (12). Burke tossed two more touchdowns than Padrick and one less interception in the previous year. His completion percentage (58) was also better than Padrick’s (49).

Assuming that Burke is back to full strength by the start of camp, the competition is a win-win situation for FIU. Burke was a first-team all-Independent selection as a true freshman and the only first-year quarterback nominated for All-American honors by The Sports Network. Padrick, who is considered the more athletic of the two, was red-shirted and given time to mature behind a clipboard. All he did when given the chance was throw for 841 more yards than Burke, despite having less starts.

When a quarterback goes on injury, the toughest part for a player is getting back into football rhythm and Briner knows this will be Burke’s biggest challenge. “Burke will have his work cut out for him,” Briner added. “He has a lot to do to get back from his injury in terms of rehab and strengthening and getting back in a groove, but he can certainly move back up. The position is wide open.”

Regardless of who takes the first snap when the season opens at home against Jacksonville, the principle goal has to be improving on last year’s dismal 2-10 record.

FIU is headed into its third season with a schedule that includes Division I-A teams, a bigger challenge for the 2004 starting quarterback.