The FIU College of Engineering and the School of Computer Sciences merged into a new program July 1 after a year-long process of deliberation and preparation between the respective schools, administrators and the Faculty Senate.

“We have been having discussions about a merger since the early 1990s. Serious discussions actually started June 2004,” said Provost Mark Rosenberg. It might have taken place earlier, except there was prolonged discussion and we wanted to make sure that all things could be expressed.”

Through this merging, the College of Engineering now becomes the College of Engineering and Computing with Vish Prasad as its executive dean. The SCS will fall under this college as the School of Computing and Information Sciences and will be headed by Dean Yi Deng.

“This was a process that took 18 months. The SCS will be formally situated under the College of Arts and Sciences, but there are still cultural differences,” Milani said. “There, it is supposed to be more collegiate, more academic and we are a department that deals with technical matters. We needed a college that could deal with those functions.”

An SCS faculty assembly resolution compiled by Deng was presented to the Faculty Senate.

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**TFU FEATURES**

By Luisa Carrera
Staff Writer

Tucked away on the second floor of the Graham Center, the Career Services office goes unnoticed by most students. With its career-focused programs and career counselors, the Career Services Center can be the key to a student’s future.

The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by Student Services and is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is published on Mondays and Thursdays during Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer semester.

**ON CAMPUS**

**TUESDAY • JULY 5**

Pre-College Studies Workshop: 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., WUC 245

Meeting: Iranian Culture Club

Presentations: Freshman Orientation

Meeting: Educational Talent Search

MCAT Test Preparation Course: 3:30 p.m., GC 243

**THURSDAY • JULY 7**

Developing Personal Leadership Skills Seminar: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., WUC Ballrooms

Freshman Orientation: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 p.m., GC Ballrooms

**FRIDAY • JULY 9**

Transfer Orientation for Arts and Sciences and Undecided major: 9:00 a.m., WUC Ballrooms

**SATURDAY • JULY 10**

MCAT Test Preparation Course: 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 p.m., WUC 157

Iranian Culture Club Meeting: 7:00 - 11:00 p.m., WUC 155

Compiled by Leoncio Alvarez

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**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

**PHOTO PROVIDED BY FIU MEDIA RELATIONS**

**SET FOR RELEASE:** Professor Carol Boyce-Davies is putting the finishing touches on the “African Diaspora Encyclopedia.”

“Encarta Africana,” to be published by the Afro-American studies department.

**INFORMATION**

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210 at the University Park campus. Members of the editorial and production staffs and questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305.348.2709. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305.348.2712. Business hours are 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: beacon@fiu.edu Visit our online at: www.beaconnewspaper.com

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The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer. Advertising inquiries for classified, local and national ads may be addressed to our advertising department in our newspapers. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by Student Services and is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is published on Mondays and Thursdays during Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer semester.

**NEWS**

www.beaconnewspaper.com

The Beacon – July 5, 2005

**Professor’s work displayed in encyclopedia**

**By Karen Buttrago**

**Contributing Writer**

The “Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora,” set for release in 2006, is a two volume work containing original documentation, cultural expression, theory and concept of the African dispersion throughout the world.

According to Carole Boyce-Davies, general editor of the project and Director of African New World Studies at the Biscayne Bay Campus, the main goal of the encyclopedia is to enrich the knowledge of students and the general public.

“It puts the knowledge that exists in dispersed ways into some coherence,” Boyce-Davies said.

According to Boyce-Davies, the encyclopedia can stimulate knowledge exchange between different people.

“We don’t know enough about each other. Knowledge helps us dispel the sense of commonality and act as a unifying factor,” Boyce-Davies said.

Albion College and Oxford, a publisher based in England, contacted Boyce-Davies for the development of the encyclopedia.

She admits that at first, she was concerned about being involved in the project because of the amount of work and detail it requires.

The experience of the publisher inputting together other encyclopedias was the foundation for this project, which has been in the works for three years and is now entering its last phase of research, editing and submission.

Boyce-Davies will be honored with writing the introduction of the encyclopedia.

“The project has moved quite fast because of the experience of the publisher. If you drag [a project like this], it can take 10 years,” she said.

Currently, there are few other universities involved in the making of encyclopedias. Harvard University published a multimedia encyclopedia called “Encarta Africana,” put together by their Afro-American studies department.

“It is not as global in scope as ours, so it is not an Encyclopedia of the African diaspora. Ours will be the first and only one of its kind,” Boyce-Davies said.

The idea of dispersion started with the scattering of the Jewish people to different areas of the world.

According to Boyce-Davies, African Diaspora dates back to slavery.

Some entries for the encyclopedia contain works from history, art and science scholars. Graduates and undergraduate students with a good understanding of the topics have also submitted entries.

Sabrina Collins, the encyclopedia’s editorial assistant, will be submitting an essay on Oria, deities found in Yoruba religion.

“Look outside your comfort zone. There is a whole beautiful world out there that so many of us miss because of our comfort zone. There is so much that we will miss.”

According to Boyce-Davies, 10 percent from the earnings of the encyclopedia will be used to create a scholarship fund.

“At this point how much this effort is costing the publisher. Some universities received from sales of the encyclopedia will go to establish helping them attend courses and present the future to students. Studies graduate students also lends help to FIU alumni.

“We can help alumni who have been laid off,” Magnusen said.

In this fall, the center is planning to expand into the surrounding floors, prompting it to be a major focus in the Graham Center.

Students who want to take advantage of these opportunities can join for a $20 lifetime fee.
Fantasies prove problematic for Jackson

By LEONOR GUERRERA
Staff Writer

Now that Michael Jackson has been found “not guilty” on child molestation charges, we can talk about other important issues surrounding Mr. Jackson. Some of these issues are: how completely out of tune with reality is he, how parents could let their children go over to a loons home and how fantasies are becoming too big a part of a child’s lives.

The most surprising thing I found throughout the trial was that so many parents allowed their children to come in contact with Jackson, an adult who obviously leads an eccentric life and has ideas that might not be appropriate for children. What in the world would make parents think it is a good idea for their child to go to Neverland ranch? As for the molestation charges, no one has any doubt that he did in fact do something with the children in question. If Jackson wants to get funky with other adults, that is his business. If he wants to mess with anyone under 18, then I’m sorry to say ladies and gentleman, we have a problem; especially if someone like Jackson, who looks deranged and all together unwell, gets away with charges like the ones he faced. I have never gone to California, so I do not know if people there are used to celebrities acting strange and therefore, the parents thought that Jackson’s strange behavior was just part of the usual weirdness they have grown to expect from Hollywood. I know that if my child asked me to sleep in Jackson’s home I would say, “Absolutely not. The way he treats children is insane.” Take his children for instance: he makes them wear veils. I think that is creepy, not to mention that its going to give those poor children a complex.

This raises the question: What is normal? The way we see it, normal behavior is like a small oasis in a huge universe. Once you walk away from it, like Jackson has, the possibilities for weird fantasies become even greater. But what really means new rules about what is right and what is wrong. Yet, who is to determine these rules? The solution to the problem may be to examine the nature of reality and how it is presented to children.

It could also be a problem of how children are being raised in a flexible environment, but parents need to be concerned about who and what influences them. There are parents who work hard to change the kind of ideas that movies and television put in children’s heads.

Fantasy-fiction has been a target of some parental groups, whether because of religious reasons or because of the violence and sex that goes with it. The media and Hollywood make billions of dollars by selling fantasies to the public and children.

The video games, toys, action figures, TV series, movies, cd’s and dvd’s all push the sale of fantasies. During his music career, Jackson was made into a glamorous icon and his image was sold to the masses, particularly to children.

Take his album, “Thriller,” for example. The song, “Thiller,” from that album portrayed him as a werewolf in the video. What can be more fantastical than that? “This fantasy” idea, however, has gone a bit far with Jackson. For starters, he lives in Neverland ranch, a place that was named after a mythical place where one never grows old. There, he has created a child-like world with an amusement park atmosphere specifically for children. One might say that it is too big a deal or that Walt Disney did something similar in creating Disneyland, however Disney never asked little boys to sleep in his bed.

So we must ask, “Can people who live in a fantasy world be dangerous as those who live outside the law?” Should we be suspicious of all fantasy fans—Trekkies, “Star Wars,” “Lord of the Rings,” “The Matrix” and “Harry Potter” fans? Is refusal to accept reality a symptom of something else? Should I worry because I like to watch Teletubbies?” As one can see, this raises many questions, but I think the most important of all of them is one we must ask of ourselves and of society: How much fantasy should we allow into the lives of children and how safe is it? The solution is a simple one. Children need fantasy in their lives, but parents should supervise the type of fantasy they get and who provides it.

The problem with Jackson is that he wants to share his fantasies with children, even though they are truly unhealthy and unsafe.

Since we do not have rules about fantasies, or “fantasy police,” it is up to parents to set them and enforce them, something I see happening less and less these days. Yet after all this, Jackson’s problem is one of the age-old questions of nature vs. nurture. Do we blame Jackson for his weird behavior, or do we blame his unstable upbringing? Perhaps his mom read him “Peter Pan” one too many times and he is truly living in his own little, “Neverland.”

Jackson now joins a number of former child celebrities who have had problems with the law, problems dealing with reality and problems keeping their lives together as adults. They feel satisfied living in their own little made-up worlds. One can only hope that one day they can reign us in the real world.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Why did you decide to attend FIU?

• It was my first choice. Golden Panthers number one!
• It wasn’t my first choice, but FIU is a bargain education.
• It’s close to home … my mommy made me.
• This is only a temporary stop. I plan on transferring somewhere else.
• I got rejected by every other school I applied to all … 37 of them.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER
Comicon relief: Garry Trudeau, cartoonist for the “Doonesbury” comic strip, will be saving the world one laugh at a time. All proceeds from the sale of his book, “The Long Road Home: One Step at a Time,” will go to the Fisher House Foundation to help out soldiers during their time of need.

LOSER
Devil’s advocate: “Get out of Here, Curse You!”, a popular novel supposedly written by ousted Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein in 2003, has been banned by Jordanian authorities who fear the book might harm relations between Jordan and the new Iraqi government.

QUOTEABLES

• “Matt, Matt, Matt, you don’t even—you’re glib, you don’t even know what Rational is.”
– Tom Cruise, actor, to Matt Lauer on NBC’s “Today Show,” during a debate about psychiatry.

• “I think Hollywood should take a crack at being original for a change.”
– Shirley MacLaine, actress, at the premiere of her new movie, “Bewitched.”

• “My family and I have just gone through the least humorous chapter of our lives. I’m going to leave the jokes to the late-night (comics), if that’s okay.”
– Janet Jackson, singer, while accepting an award from the Human Rights Campaign spoke briefly about her brother, Michael.

• “No, ‘cause I’m definitely ditsy, and people believe that about me. But, I mean, I’m not dumb.”
– Jessica Simpson, actress and singer, when asked by GQ if there were any misconceptions about her in the media due to her “Newlyweds” show.

• “My heart will always look up into the sky and feel optimistic about what’s out there.”
– Steven Spielberg, director, on an article in USA Today, on the possibility of intelligent life in the universe.

• “Isn’t it time for you to resign?”
– Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts democrat, question- ing Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld during a Senate hearing on the war in Iraq.

• “Spelberg wanted real soldiers to make the scenes more authentic. He was quite impressed. You don’t get any more Army than the 10th Mountain Division.”
– Lt. Col. Paul Fitzpatrick, on his role in “War of the Worlds.”

4
Wyatt decides to remake the 60s sitcom better than ever on silver screen.

Beloved sixties sitcom better than ever on silver screen

If you’re a sucker for magic and laughs, “Bewitched” may be the release you’ve been searching for this summer. Starring Nicole Kidman and Will Ferrell, this team of quirky, misunderstood characters find themselves in dire need of a “wake-up call.” Both feel they’ve received the short end of the stick in life, and their journey is a chance for new beginnings and happy endings.

Ferrell’s character, Jack Wyatt, has miserable luck while making for hysterical situations. Wyatt’s intentions go awry and Isabel’s “ideals” are not as simple as she once thought them to be. Although the film’s plot is not the deepest of notions, its innocent and sweet nature does not, and should not, go unappreciated. It’s a refreshing movie to sit back and enjoy.

Wyatt and Kidman do a remarkable job of stepping into the impossible while still saving important reminder to dream, one gets a lot back for what they spend. I recently bought a thousand for five dollars at 99 Cents Stuff. While you are there, spend a dollar or two on water wings or animal shaped inner tubes.

THE DRUNKEN MELON

Remember the potluck method? It could be perfectly applied to your very own poolside smoothies if you get everyone to bring their own spices and mixings. Set up a blender, a juicer and a cooler full of fruit. Some smoothie recipes include yogurt, honey or ice. People can serve themselves their own smoothies whenever they like.

If you decide to juice the fruit yourself, do not discard the pulp. Hold on to leftover cantaloupe skin and banana peels to experiment with as many water balloons as possible. Whether your pool party takes place during the day or at night, the water balloons are a fun accent to almost any summer occasion. Water balloons can be found cheaply at dollar stores. Be weary of rip-offs; a good deal should go for about 150-200 balloons for every dollar you spend. Recently I bought a thousand for five dollars at 99 Cents Stuff. While you are there, spend a dollar or two on water wings or animal shaped inner tubes.

THE POTLUCK METHOD

You have probably heard of potluck gatherings from PTA meetings or church luncheons, but this method can make any occasion affordable. When everyone brings a little something to the table, the host is relieved of the burden of the cost and everyone gets a lot back for what they put in. When planning ahead, ask for the right things from the right people. Get reliable friends to bring important ingredients. Remember to ask that friend who is always running late to bring dessert.

THE LIVING’S EASY

Tips like having potluck lunches and doing yourself a smoothie bar help guests get involved in the gathering, as well as keep party costs to a minimum. Fun gimmicks like water-filled balloons, water wings, animal shaped inner tubes keep party-goers entertained.

DO-IT-YOURSELF SMOOTHIE BAR

If you are planning a more low-key gathering, this classic watermelon treat might be for you. It’s a melon that is saturated with vodka. It takes a few days to prepare, but the idea is simple; cut a hole on the top of the watermelon and insert a funnel. Gradually pour a bottle of vodka in it over the course of a few days. Keep refrigerated. The fruit will absorb the alcohol. Once it’s ready, slice it up and serve.

THE BEACON - 4 July 5, 2005

By RAQUEL COOL
Staff Writer

School is out, the temperature has risen and fun in the sun is to be had. Whoever you are, there are no excuses — you should be lazily afloat in a tacky inner tube in the middle of the pool. In fact, invite your friends over for a pool party! Using this easy-to-do guide, a summer get-together will only cost you a few dollars.

THE GIMMICK

Now that you have learned how to deal with the food situation, you can deal with what good hosts worry about — throwing a decent get-together. Beer and potato chips will only take you so far. Besides, you do not have to rely on letting the drinks set in to appease your guests. Instead, try providing them with a gimmick!

In this case, fill the entire pool with as many water balloons as possible. Whether your pool party takes place during the day or at night, the water balloons are a fun accent to almost any summer occasion. Water balloons can be found cheaply at dollar stores. Be weary of rip-offs; a good deal should go for about 150-200 balloons for every dollar you spend. Recently I bought a thousand for five dollars at 99 Cents Stuff. While you are there, spend a dollar or two on water wings or animal shaped inner tubes.

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WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE!

Spielberg thrills with true-to-roots action in War of the Worlds

By GIOVANI BENITEZ
In-Depth Editor

Someday, Steven Spielberg will be remembered for his fine work with alien invasion flicks, but the American film industry might view the Spielberg of the 21st century as director of the year. After all, he went to world-renowned director Janusz Kaminski to another level. The editing is so effective that it reaches straight to the heart and screaming the essence of pure Hollywood drama.

The film opens with an ominous voice-over by Morgan Freeman, reading almost verbatim from the 1938 Orson Welles radio broadcast that scared the country half to death.

Moviegoers are introduced to Ray (Cruise), a divorced dockworker with weekend custody of his two children, 10-year-old Rachel (Fanning) and rebellious teenager Robbie (Justin

Bornilla, nicknamed “Monster of Babahoyo.”

Ecuador. He follows a serial killer who is in search of a big story in a Miami journalist named Manolo by Sebastian Cordero, is the story of a Miami journalist named Manolo Bornilla (played by John Leguizamo), who is in search of a big story in Ecuador. He follows a serial killer nicknamed “Monster of Babahoyo.”By bending all journalism ethics, Bornilla hopes to unveil the killer’s story to make his network famous, but doesn’t realize that he’s getting too deep.

“I have always been surprised by the stereotypical way in which a serial killer is portrayed,” Cordero said at the forum.

He came up with the idea for the film when he realized that not too many films stray away from that stereotypical killer portrayed on the big screen as an inhuman person that possesses no love for anyone.

Cordero had been intrigued by Luis Alfredo Garavito, a 1999 killer in Colombia. His wife had no idea what was going on. Bornilla, on the other hand, is a man who possesses no love for anyone.

Some film critics say this is Spielberg's direct theatrical response to the terror attacks of September 11. In fact, after Ray steals a mini-van to get away from the aliens, Rachel and Robbie nervously ask him several times, “Is it the terrorists?”

Meanwhile, the special effects make the film a perfect summer blockbuster. Editor Michael Kahn takes the video by cinematographer Janusz Kaminski to another level. The editing is so effective that it reaches straight to the heart and screaming the essence of pure Hollywood drama. In fact, the film ends with a typical Spielberg ending—one that reaches straight to the heart and reminds the viewer that Spielberg will always be Spielberg.

Of course, some moviegoers don’t understand the ending. But the meaning of the film’s ending can’t be any simpler and it helps the viewer understand a less clear point earlier in the film.

While the film was definitely worth a late-night viewing, one question comes to mind: Would E.T. approve of how the film portrays his kind? I think not.

The film made nearly $35 million worldwide in just one day. Paramount Pictures announced last week that it was the largest opening day in their studio’s history. That may not come as a surprise to Spielberg fans.

Besides, anyone can see this film screams the essence of pure Hollywood drama. In fact, the film ends with a typical Spielberg ending—one that reaches straight to the heart and reminds the viewer that Spielberg will always be Spielberg.

4. THIRD EYE BLIND

Many of us associate this mid-90s band with their catchy “do do do’s” and creative chords, but for me, Third Eye Blind is a lot more than just a faded rock group. Straying away from their more conservative and upbeat “pop” rivals, 3EB songs touch upon real issues like sex, addictions and death.

5. DOTS

We’ve all seen them — those gummy candies that got tossed into our good bags every Halloween. Instead of getting the more popular Blow-pops and Snickers bars, the majority of kids were busy greeting over the excess supply of DOTS. I was busy establishing what would be a life time connection with these chewy culinary delights.

Latin American films crack into mainstream

by CHARLENE COLLazo
Assistant Life Editor

This summer two major Latin American films will hit the U.S. cinema at full blow with powerful issues: “Cronicas” and “Secuestro Express.” During a discussion forum held in Fort Worth, Texas on June 17, the creators behind these two films expressed their concern of how the film portrays his kind? I think not.

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Besides, anyone can see this film screams the essence of pure Hollywood drama. In fact, the film ends with a typical Spielberg ending—one that reaches straight to the heart and reminds the viewer that Spielberg will always be Spielberg.

Of course, some moviegoers don’t understand the ending. But the meaning of the film’s ending can’t be any simpler and it helps the viewer understand a less clear point earlier in the film.

While the film was definitely worth a late-night viewing, one question comes to mind: Would E.T. approve of how the film portrays his kind? I think not.
Backstreet Boys return with long-awaited fifth album

By RAYNEL KINCHEN
Contributing Writer

After five long years, the boys are finally back! The much anticipated new album Never Gone from Backstreet Boys’ Howie Dorough, Nick Carter, A.J. McLean, Brian Littrell and Kevin Richardson, fail to disappoint fans.

After all these years, many critics were questioning the group’s longevity and their ability to maintain a fan base after such a long absence from the music scene. However, the numbers are in. The band peaked at number three on the Billboard charts, with Never Gone selling 290,946 albums in the first week alone. It seems like The Backstreet Boys are having a very welcoming homecoming.

Never Gone is filled with rock and pop ballads and mid-tempo tracks that veer away from their original sound of R’n’B, pop classics and love songs.

However, if you are still in search of the next “I Want It That Way,” they do not disappoint. Many of the songs are in the same vein of serious lyrics and love songs.

The title track “Never Gone,” and “Weird World.” These will meet the needs of the deepest thinker. The songs that they have the most fun with are the heavily harmonized “Poster Girl,” the crazy mix of Motown and rock on “My Beautiful Woman,” and the soaring “Climbing The Walls,” which was rumored to have been slated for the “Spider Man 2” soundtrack.

The guys also brought back their old producer/writer, Max Martin produced “Siberia,” and the delicious rock/pop song “Just Want You To Know.”

They also worked with many new writers like Five For Fighting, aka John Ondrasik, on “Weird World.” “Never Gone,” written by Kevin Richardson, Gary Baker and Steve Diamond, is a beautiful song dedicated to Kevin’s father, Gerald, who died two and a half years sober, Howie Dorough, A.J. McLean.

“Never Gone” is an album about emotion and thought. It is a testimony to BSB’s ability to change with time and still stay true to their time-tested formula of pop music. It is a sound that has grown with the fans and can still be appreciated by the newer, younger audience.

They may have taken a few years off, Brian to raise a child, A.J. to work on his sobriety (two and a half years sober), Howie to raise lupus awareness, Nick to grow as a solo artist, and Kevin in helping to save the environment and act in Broadway’s Chicago. But, Backstreet’s back and they are still making musical magic.

MOVIE RELEASED WITH HOPE TO DIMINISH LATINO STEREOTYPES

Movie released with hope to diminish Latino stereotypes

By JOHNNY BOY
John Leguizamo stars in “Cronicas” as Manolo Bonilla, an ethnocentric journalist in search of a serial killer. COURTESY PHOTO

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Backstreet Boys

Backstreet Boys make a comeback with their much anticipated new album Never Gone.

The Backstreet Boys have a very welcoming homecoming.

Backstreet Boys return with long-awaited fifth album.

The Beacon – July 5, 2005

LIFE!
MEDIOCRITY NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR TALENTED MARLINS

By AIDEN GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

A recurring theme in Major League Baseball is that one cannot judge a team’s success simply by the names on its rosters. Before the start of every season, we make our predictions and try to figure out who the favorites are, but it just so happens that every year we are sorely mistaken.

This year, Ozzie Guillen’s no-name Chicago White Sox sit atop of the AL Central while George Steinbrenner’s New York Yankees eat up dollars like a garbage disposal and lie in third place in their division.

Coming into the season, the Marlins seemed destined for mediocrity. They failed to resign Cy-Young candidate Carl Pavano and didn’t make any additions to strengthen their team. Then one day, slugging first baseman Carlos Delgado came knocking at the door and all of a sudden, we were bound for our third World Series championship.

I’ll be the first to say that I too considered him the “final piece of the puzzle” and the “missing link” to a perfect ball club. But once again, I got caught in the same web so many of us get trapped in – the uncertainty of baseball.

With the month of June concluded, the Marlins stood five games out of first place behind the Washington Nationals, in one of the most competitive divisions in all of baseball. Now, as we close into the All-Star Break, here’s a report card of the Marlins hitting and pitching thus far.

HITTING: C-

The fish came into the season with very high expectations on offense. Delgado brought the much-needed power to a lineup that lacked strength in the middle.

The problem I see with their hitting is that they have not established their genetic makeup. Their success in 2003 (the year the Marlins won their second championship) was built on speed, getting on base and timely hitting with runners in scoring position.

This year, they have both the speed and the power; the problem is they do not know how to use them.

Juan Pierre, the most important person in the lineup, is hitting in the mid .200s and has not had the opportunity to utilize his great speed.

Hitting behind sluggers Miguel Cabrera and Carlos Delgado, Mike Lowell and Paul Lo Duca are very important in the run production of this ball club. Combined, however, they currently have five home runs and less than 60 RBIs.

Despite their current lack of support, Luis Castillo has bounced back from a .300 average over .300. Miguel Cabrera is having an All-Star season and Carlos Delgado is putting up his usual numbers. Look for the Marlins to turn up their inconsistent offense as Lo Duca, Lowell and Pierre get going. You know they’re not going to stay quiet for too long.

STARTING PITCHING: B+

The second half of the season should prove to be interesting as things heat up in the division. Look for the Marlins’ talent to finally be displayed consistently.

MISSING LINK: Carlos Delgado was thought to be the left-handed power hitter the Marlins sorely needed and has performed as advertised.

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Former ace discusses new life as pro

By XAVIER VILLARMARZO
Sports Editor

David Asher is living a dream.

After being selected in the eighth round by the Seattle Mariners, Asher is one step closer to what he’s always wanted since his childhood.

However, getting closer to his dream has taken him over 3,000 miles away from home and his family, until early September.

With the Everett AquaSox, the Mariners’ short-season Class A affiliate in Washington, Asher will spend the next few months traveling on bus around the Pacific Northwest to face other minor league teams.

But despite his hectic travel schedule, Asher still had time to talk about his thoughts on the draft, how he faces minor league hitters and his future plans as a baseball player.

Q: What was the first thing that went through your mind when you were selected?

Finally, it’s over. The waiting was just brutal. I wasn’t even watching when I got picked. My brother was the one who told me I got picked and I was relieved.

Q: What is biggest difference between playing in college and playing in the minor leagues?

Although I made it, it’s still a long way. There’s still a lot of work to do to make it in the majors.

Q: What are the differences when facing a batter with a wooden bat as opposed to a batter with an aluminum bat?

You can pitch inside more and break some bats. With an aluminum bat, those inside pitches can be turned into cheap hits.

Q: How do you manage being so far away from home for such a long period of time?

I really didn’t have too much time to think about it. I left to Washington the day after I signed my contract. As long as we keep playing everyday, time will go by fast and I won’t have to worry about it.

Q: What was the first thing you bought with the signing bonus money you received?

I bought a new set of aluminum bats; they have wood ones.

Q: What time frame do you give yourself to reach the major leagues?

I say two to three years. So if I can’t have time to learn some new things, I’m very competitive, so as long as I keep throwing strikes and getting guys out, I’ll make it in my time frame.

Q: If you don’t make it to the majors in the time you hope, would you continue to battle it out in the minors?

If after three years I see that I’m not moving up or if I stay level at a while, I will leave. I love the game of baseball, but it would be too much to have to do some of the things you hate about the game for the little amount of money a minor league gets.

Q: In 10 years, how much will a David Asher rookie card be worth?

I don’t know. It depends on how much you’ll pay.

University establishes Athletics Hall of Fame

By HARRY COLEMAN
Editor in Chief

Looking to be a more traditional university where athletic programs dominate the campus circuit, Athletic Director Rick Mello announced a plan last week for the creation of an FIU Athletics Hall of Fame. The induction of its first class will take place in the spring of 2006.

“The many student-athletes that have come through our program have been a source of great pride to our university and the South Florida community. With the creation of the FIU Athletics Hall of Fame, we now have a vehicle to honor the men and women who have laid the groundwork for this up-and-coming intercollegiate athletic program,” Mello said.

To qualify for selection into the Hall of Fame, a student-athlete must have excelled at the intercollegiate level for FIU.

The student-athlete’s four years of eligibility must have ended a minimum of 10 years ago, meaning the first class must be from 1995-96 or before.

Coaches and athletic directors are also eligible for induction 10 years after beginning their tenure at the university.

Amongst the current head coaches who could be inducted as early as next year, is current men’s soccer coach Karl Kremser.

Kremser, a 30-year veteran, has over 300 career victories and led FIU to its first national championship of any sport in 1982. He also led his team to the NCAA finals three more times — 1984, 1985 and 1996.

Under the sponsorship of the FIU Foundation, Inc. and Panther Athletic Club, a hall of fame committee, is being assembled to select the student-athletes and coaches.

It will consist of Tony Argiz, a member of FIU’s inaugural baseball team and the CEO/Managing Partner of Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLP accounting firm has agreed to be the committee’s first-ever chairman. Rich Kelch, the university’s assistant athletic director for media relations will serve as co-chairman.

A maximum of five honorances will be inducted into the FIU Athletics Hall of Fame each year. The committee plans to announce the inaugural inductee class later this year. An honors banquet will take place in April or May of 2006.

“The chance to formally recognize and think our future Hall of Fame inductees is an exciting concept and the start of another tradition at this vibrant, young institution that we hope will be embraced by the entire FIU community,” Mello said.

The university has made nominations for the first class open to the public. An on-line nomination ballot has been created at www.fiusports.com/halloffame.

INDUCTEE: Men’s soccer coach Karl Kremser, with over 300 career victories in 30 years of coaching, could be in the first FIU Hall of Fame class.