Students at the University Park campus will experience an increase in traffic and a limit in available parking spots March 17 through April 3. This is because the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition will be taking place at the neighboring Tamiami Park, which has been home to the fair for 54 years.

In a memorandum sent to all FIU departments, Michael H. Wright, acting director for the Department of Public Safety, stated that there will be certain times when fair patrons will be utilizing a majority of the parking areas at FIU.

According to the Miami-Dade County Fair Expo Center website, the fair is a major supporter of FIU. The fair not only contributed two million dollars to the FIU community, but it also donated $1.4 million toward the Wertheim Performing Arts Center at the UP campus.

The fair has partnered with the county and FIU to design and organize shared parking and the development of a Metro Dade bus terminal. The terminal, which has allowed for additional student parking, will be closed during the fair.

“Parking Lot Five, located just east of the Wertheim Performing Arts Center, will be closed and used for staging/preparation by the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition throughout the duration of the event,” Wright said in the memorandum.

Not only will Parking Lot Five be closed for the 18-day event, but students who park in the Blue and Gold Garages might have a hard time finding parking after 9 p.m.

“My understanding is that [fair visitors] are going to use the Blue and Gold garage, and they are only going to be used after nine o’clock at night. That is what [fair officials] told us,” said Parking and Traffic department coordinator, Lazaro E. Rodriguez.

Despite the rise in visitors that will be using the garages closest to the fair grounds, Parking Lot Six, located on the west side of the WPAC, has been designated exclusively as a residential housing parking lot.

“Lot Six is not going to be used at all [by fair visitors]. It is going to be used exclusively by housing students,” Rodriguez said. “As a matter of fact, we are going to post a couple patrollers on that site to prevent people from parking in there. We will go out of our way to prevent any guests for the Youth Fair to park in Lot Six from 5 to 10 p.m.”

Some students see the changes in parking during the fair and the use of the garages by fair patrons as unfair.

“If you talk to the students who need to park in the garages,” said Rodriguez, “they are going to make a loud noise about it.”

Some students also see the fair as a good opportunity to make this a reality.

“I really think that it is a good time to start thinking about how we can make the system better,” said Rodriguez. “This is the only way these people can experience how hard they have to park in the garages.”

Minimizing Fair-related traffic inconveniences

• After 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, use the 112 Ave./8 St. or 117 Ave./17 St. entrances to the University. These entrances should be used all day on Saturdays and Sundays.

• The 107 Ave. entrances will be closed periodically on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays to accommodate Fair traffic.

• Avoid mixing with Fair traffic by utilizing Parking Lots 1, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

• If problems arise, contact the Department of Public Safety at 305-348-2626.

SIDENOTE

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FEAR, from page 1

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Although students may be concerned about parking in the garages, they should not be worried about being ticketed.

“We will give out tickets during the Youth Fair! Most likely it’s not going to happen. But if it does depend on the violation,” Rodriguez said. “We ticket until 7 p.m. when it comes to the garages, but under the guidelines of the rules and regulations that we have, it depends on the violation. There are violations that are enforced 24 hours a day.”

As of press time and despite several attempts to reach officials of the Department of Public Safety, no information could be gathered as to how the added traffic will flow through or around FIU.

Fair patrons to use FIU garages

By ANA RIBEIRO

FAIR, from page 1

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Fair patrons to use FIU garages

By ANA RIBEIRO

Students enrolled in the FIU music education program have been voicing complaints after the Florida Legislature asked for an increase in requirements for all students majoring in education across the state.

According to the students’ complaints, the new rule, enforced by the Florida Department of Education, will add extra credit requirements to their already full course load.

Students majoring in music education already take credit hours to satisfy the university core curriculum, as well as classes within the School of Music and the necessary required credits needed to enter the program.

With the new rule in place, students will be required to take an additional 24 credits, rounding out their total undergraduate credits to 120.

“When all the requirements that must be met by music majors for [the National Association of Schools of Music] and those mandated by the Florida Department of Education for accreditation are added together, the number of credits for completion of a degree in music education becomes exorbitant,” said Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the College of Education, Adriana McEachern, through e-mail.

Though McEachern said she has been discussing the problem with Donna Golnick, senior vice president for National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education – the organization which accredited the College of Education – “in the hopes that something could be done to alleviate the burden for our music majors,” nothing has been resolved so far.

Administrators within the College of Arts and Sciences and members of the music education program would not comment on the situation.

CORRECTIONS

Corrections for the Café Hillel story, which ran on page 3.

1. The Café Hillel campaign is not a result of Corrections for the Café Hillel story, which ran on page 3.

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I stood there with deflated fervor as I watched the retreat ing back of a fellow student, contemplating his last statement to me. “If it were for kids in another country or something I would do it,” said the student, con creting the raffle tickets. I was selling (the proceeds of which would aid homeless shelters in South Florida). “Why should I give my money to bums who aren’t going to get a job anyways?” he added.

Perhaps it’s because 1,800 of those “bums” last year were children — thousands of American children living in extreme poverty, fighting hunger and the exposure of street life. Of these children, most have simply had the misfortune of being born into poverty or simply had the misfortune of growing to get a job anyways?” poverty, fighting hunger and the exposure of street life. Of these children, most have simply had the misfortune of being born into poverty or simply had the misfortune of growing

Of these children, most have simply had the misfortune of being born into poverty or simply had the misfortune of growing up in a family of no formal education, how a total lack of income for two months would put anyone hopelessly behind on payments for homes, cars, insurance etc., especially if one enjoys a high standard of living.

According to the U.S. Mayors Conference report in 2002, “It is remarkable that over the last decade the percent of the homeless population consist ing of families with children has climbed from 22 percent to more than 40 percent.

Two-thirds of the United States homeless population consists of families children or single women and unaccompanied youth. More than one in five of the homeless work, many at full time jobs that do not pay enough to rent an apartment.

“Sometimes we didn’t have the money or time to buy slight things like toothpaste,” recalls a freshman, who prefers to remain nameless, about his family being on welfare after a brief time of being homeless. “I remember going to school one day, we had no way to brush our teeth with soap,” he added.

In president Bush’s proposed budget, he provides $200 million for selected homeless programs but cuts four billion dollars from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These cuts are poised to derail programs that target people living below the federal poverty threshold.

It will also severely harm programs that provide affordable, safe housing to disabled people, AIDS patients, immi grants, Native Americans and poverty-stricken individuals and families.

Bush says he aims to end “chronic homelessness,” yet this label overemphasizes a 10 percent portion of the home less population that will remain homeless for many years.

It contributes to the prevail ing stereotypes about “bums” while leaving those who try to move out of their situations with fewer options.

In 2002, the waiting list for public housing in Los Angeles was three years, while here in Miami it was an astonishing seven-year wait. With affordable housing programs being slashed even further, it leaves many families in desperate situations with no other alternative than to live on the street.

These cuts are only a small part of the $41 billion cut in domestic spending requested by the president, while he simulta neously promotes a $1.3 trillion extension of his tax breaks that benefit mainly the wealthiest individuals and businesses in the nation.

The community needs to know that every dollar donated to reputable organizations does bring good. The local Homeless Voice Newspaper, for example, has a distribution of 79,000 papers, and with a donation of at least $1 each, they are able to run their shelter month by month.

Other programs are taking people off the streets and into jobs. In 2003, the Homeless Assistance Program helped 4,539 people find work and residential placement while the Miami Rescue Mission placed 174 people. That’s about as large as my entire graduating class.

There are several ways the public can effectively aid the fight against homelessness.

Some organizations suggest instead of giving handouts or food, which can actually enable the homeless to remain in their current position, it is better to offer them an oppor tunity.

An opportunity can be any thing from handing them a job listing or paying them to carry your groceries.

If you decide to do something every effort can do some good in the life of a man, woman or child. Let’s not sil ence the voices of the American children in need; they deserve to be recognized, to have every chance to live the American dream.

Response to Melissa Rodriguez’s “Boogiefights”

On March 14, 2005 The Beacon ran an opinion article entitled, “Women are the life of the party, should get perks.”

I am deeply disappointed that a university-run newspaper would print such immaturity, obviously sexist and stereotypical writing.

Rodriguez’s arguments for giving women prefer ential treatment at clubs are shallow and downright absurd.

Her subtle implica tion that club perks are some form of retribution to women who have been “treated as second class citizens, demoralized and practically made outcasts of society” is severely short sighted.

The women who fought hard for equality in the 1960s and 70s hardly ben efit at all from these so called “perks.” Rodriguez also fails to acknowledge the more disturbing implica tions of these “perks.”

Such policies (1) effec tively exploit women (2) perpetuate sexism, gender inequity and gender ste reotypes and (3) frequently put women in awkward situations.

The sexist nature of Rodriguez’s article is ob vi ous — from her choice of words (e.g. “whoring it up”) to her claim that clubs are “nothing but trouble when they drink” while women are perfectly well behaved when drunk.

Overall, her argument is very weak. The current policies nightclubs have for women are not only unfair, but also a danger ous, different, subterfuge form of using women as tools of capitalism.

Megan Kelley Senior Women’s Studies & Health Services Administration Response to Melissa Quincosa’s “Students to discuss Iraq at Café Hillel”

I am writing in response to the article that was written in Monday’s paper in the Café Hillel campaign was designed by the Jewish Student Union in conjunction with Hillel Second Generation to promote and encourage conversation and communication among Jewish and non-Jewish students by creating an environment in which Israel was the resource and “a cup of coffee” was the excuse.

Café Hillel is a famous coffee shop in Israel, in which people of all national ities and religions gather to speak their mind over a cup of coffee everyday. Therefore, the Café Hillel campaign was a program designed to invite you to have a free cup of coffee Café Hillel style and to converse with us. We wanted to inform you about all of the technological and medi cal advancements that are happening in Israel today, as well as to show you a beautiful exhibition of Israeli’s landmarks.

The program did not intend to create controversy on campus or to speak about political matters. It was not created as an open forum to speak about the war in Iraq.

However, you have the right to voice your opinion and it was welcomed there, but that was not the nature of the event as the article titled “Students to discuss Iraq at Café Hillel” sug gested.

We want to let you know that the technology for AOL Instant Messenger was developed in 1996 by four young Israelis and that Israeli scientists developed the first fully computer ized, no-radiation, diag nostic instrument for breast cancer.

Also, you should know that voca ment technology was developed in Israel.

You can find more of these facts on www.israel21c.org.

Israel is a flourishing country with a true melting pot of people of all religions and nationalities. It is a developing country in which, although small in size, is immense in its contributions to the world at large. Stay informed and keep talking. You never know what you may find out.

Reyna Sui Israel Program Associate Hillel Second Generation
Stage parents obsess over child star’s road to Hollywood success

By DARA BRAMSON
Staff Writer

In Miami, one of the main hubs of the entertainment industry, children are often subjected to the intensity of the business. Children are unable to put themselves into the business anymore than a chicken can ask to be baked or fried.

Behind the smiling face of a child in an Old Navy ad or an Express black card if their parents would forfeit their American Idol is Christina Aguilera’s “Dirty” music video to be an inspiration for five-year-old girls. A guest on Dr. Phil’s show even put braces on her two-and-a-half-year-old daughter because she had a crooked tooth. Understandably, going through preschool with an imperfection to that extent could be very detrimental to a child’s future.

The term “stage parent” is a label often given to parents who obsessively reinforce their child’s talent. Bonnie, a guest on Dr. Phil, subliminally displayed the selfish motives of these types of parents. It became evident throughout the interview that Regan, her four-year-old daughter, had minimal input regarding her own passion, or lack thereof, for beauty pageants. “If we don’t come and sit in that chair, someone else will be here talking about pageants,” Bonnie said.

Far too often, you may hear parents using the word “we.” “We shot a commercial last month.” “We! Were you in it too? The child is the one who auditioned, attended rehearsals and learned the lines. While being a stage parent may be a full-time job for which parents are not being compensated, nobody is forcing them to make this commitment.

These are parents, who, in all likelihood, failed miserably in accomplishing their dream of becoming an “American Idol.” Now they take solace in living vicariously through their children. The cover of the most recent issue of Pop Star magazine is crammed with pictures of the younger siblings of every pop star. Jamie-Lynn Spears, Aaron Carter and at least three 12-year-olds who could be Eminem’s offspring.

It is likely that most stage parents would forfeit their American Express black card if their child could appear among the youthful pin-ups. Regardless of whose dream is being pursued, these parents need to take their child’s safety into consideration. Regan’s mother, Bonnie, the guest on Dr. Phil, seemed to be in denial that there was a safety issue. “If the threats continue, I will have to pull Regan out of school.”

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Parking situation worsens with the fair’s arrival in Miami

Everyday, students and faculty bare the never-ending battle of parking at FIU. Whether it is fighting your peers for the perfect spot or following a defenseless book carrying student across a whole parking lot to her car and then giving her a ride because she forgot she is actually in the garage by the gym, the parking situation is incredibly tedious.

If students thought parking was a hassle before, the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition is coming to town, which means that available parking spots will be at an all-time low. Noticeably, the Youth Fair property borders along FIU, but that’s not a problem until the fair is in session.

Then, Lot Six by the Wertheim Performing Arts Center becomes completely out of bounds for the FIU community, leaving the music, dance and theatre students without close-to-home parking spaces. Also, the Office of Parking and Transportation has recently closed off Lot Five to make room for carnival attendance.

Now, only residential students may park there; any others will be fined or will find a boot on their car. Where are students supposes to park? Garages! No, in every garage the first two stories are only for faculty and staff, leaving us even less space for parking.

On most days, being late to class is inevitable because of the terrible parking situation. You could spend up to half an hour searching for a parking space. When you do find a space, it is most likely so far away from the building that you might as well have walked there from your house.

With the fair taking up so much parking, it will be even more difficult for FIU students to find a decent parking space, especially with a recent agreement between FIU and the fair that will allow fair-goers to park in FIU’s parking garages after 9 p.m.

In order to avoid having a nervous breakdown during the time the fair is in town, try to arrive at FIU 30 minutes or more before your first class, wear comfortable shoes for the long trek to class, stay on campus for the majority of the day to avoid having to find parking again. Most of all, keep yourself from thinking about how unfair it is that carnie’s have better parking spots than you.

— Jessica Iser, Opinion Editor

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— Jessica Iser, Opinion Editor

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER
Bald guys: A new study shows that baldness might be a sign of a lively libido. Baldness occurs when testosterone is blocked, and the blocked testosterone may actually increase sexual drive. I can hear the sound of a thousand toupees being thrown to the wind.

LOSER
Pinhead: Patrick Lawler shot himself in the head with a nail gun while working at a construction site nearly two months ago. He has since quit his job, but with five titanium plates and fifteen screws in his head, he is still in the process of healing. Lawler says a high impact injury could cause his head to cave in. His new career: skateboarding.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Do you think the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition should be allowed to use FIU parking?

• Yes. Sharing is caring.
• No. There is a shortage of parking as it is.
• What do I care? My mom drops me off at school.
• They should be, but only at specific times of the day.
• I only come to school to go to the fair anyway.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com
VIVA LE FRANCE: The main objective one should have when visiting Paris is to visit all its major tourist attractions, like the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe and The Louvre.

ANA RIBIERO/THE BEACON

SPRING BREAK DESTINATIONS: PARIS

Another highlight of Paris is the neighborhood of Montmartre. You climb a hill with the ancient Catholic chapel of Sacre-Cour on top, overlooking a ‘village of sin.’

PARIS

The City of Lights

By ANA RIBEIRO

Staff Writer

Paris looks like a huge open-air museum to me. It seems that on every corner you turn, there’s an ancient castle or monument staring you in the face. It’s an imposing and breath-taking city, indeed, but one that’s also uncannily easy to “conquer.”

TRANSPORTATION

Getting around Paris is no mystery. The transportation system is well-integrated. Train stations like Montparnasse lead down to metro stations (subway stations), which are practically on every corner. There’s also the RER, a breed between a subway and a train, which gives you a high and low view of the city so you don’t need to pay for those red sightseeing cars. One of the RER drop-offs is at the nearby city of Versailles, where the beautiful Louis XIV palace is located.

For 30 euros, you get the best deal in town – a single pass that lets you use any kind of transportation in and around Paris for a whole week.

Almost every morning, I took the train alone from the town of La Falaise (with a floating population of 621 and no commerce), to Paris’s Montparnasse station, an hour away. I was staying with acquaintances I had only met over the phone – a Brazilian lady and her French husband.

DEUCACIES

We carried whole conversations in Portuguese, and I inserted half a sentence in French. They fixed me exotic dishes every night when I came home for dinner, such as escargot, foie gras (goose liver) and duck legs. Sometimes I ate chocolate crepes in Paris throughout the day and chocolate crepes again for dessert at the house back in the village.

Good stuff.

But the husband was somewhat of a hermit and didn’t like the big city, and the lady often wanted to keep him company. So she only accompanied me to Paris a couple of times to get me used to it. After that, I was on my own.

There are tourists and lines everywhere in Paris, even when it’s as cold. I visited the Eiffel Tower and waited a couple of hours to get to the tower in a shaky, little elevator.

I felt uneasy, but the panorama was worth any shivers from fear or cold, and any crowds.

MONTMARTRE

Another highlight of Paris was the neighborhood of Montmartre. After climbing a hill with the ancient Catholic chapel of Sacre-Cour on top, there was an overlook of a “village of sin.”

After climbing down the other side of the hill, there were artists everywhere painting portraits of tourists in the middle of the street, which is no sin except a sin of the pocket. But when you get to the bottom, you are taken aback by the number of sex shops and cabarets.

The mildest one seemed to be the Moulin Rouge, now more like a circus.

In fact, in Paris, the duality of Catholicism and sex is quite an interesting recurring theme. I even encountered this sensuousness in a more artistic way at the Museum d’Orsay.

Walking in, there was a sculpture of a woman writhing after having been attacked by a “snake.” On the right side of the hall, there was a huge painting of a Roman orgy, titled something like “The Decadents of Rome.”

Near the world-famous impressionist works by Monet and Van Gogh, there was a painting by Courbet that showed a vagina titled, “The Origin of the World.”

The Louvre Museum has more classical art, although its Greco-Roman aisle presents sculptures of men in questionable actions.

But I redeemed myself. I went to Sacre-Cour, Notre Dame and about 10 other churches or basilicas in Paris. I unintentionally witnessed Mass in French in a little chapel among the expensive shops of the Galeries Lafayette and understood none of it.

PRICES

Paris is not cheap, and prices are disproportionate. The price of tickets for attractions like the Eiffel Tower is on average 10 euros. Meanwhile, the price of a cup of coffee is a little under half of that, at four euros.

The coffee was only worth it for me because I sat in a Paris café and imagined that Ernest Hemingway must have done the same thing when he lived there. So I felt like a Bohemian novelist for half an hour.

But in Hemingway’s time, there was no such thing as the euro, which is worth about 33 percent more than the dollar.

See PARIS, page 7
The Shallow Seas

By MAILYN MEDEROS
Contributing Writer

A wonderful destination for Spring Break is the Bahamas. The Bahamas or Bajá Mar in Spanish, meaning “shallow seas,” was discovered in 1492 by Europeans. It is comprised of over 700 islands and 2,000 cays. The islands’ tropical weather and reefs attract many tourists for outdoor activities such as fishing, snorkeling, sea-kayaking,

sailing, swimming, windsurfing, diving, biking, hiking, horseback riding and bird watching.

Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas, is located across the dock of the Rawson Square area on Bay St. Tourists, government workers, hawkers and musicians populate the area.

Toward the west and north of the square, Bahamian women can be found braiding hair for about $1 a strand.

The center of the Bahamian government and buildings from the 1800s, including the Opposition Building and House of Assembly and Senate can be found in the south region.

The Straw Market is within walking distance toward the west.

There are about 150 vendors selling all types of things from beads, designer purses and t-shirts to shark-tooth necklaces and hand-carved wooden artifacts.

One of the stops for a cruise that I took was the Bahamas. The best thing I did was visit the Atlantis Paradise Hotel with its beautiful aquarium, pools and casino.

The park was established in 1958 and has no commercial developments, resorts or restaurants.

Its main office is in the middle and has displays of the Exumas, assorted maps, information sheets and reference books.

Seven miles of marked hiking trails criss-cross the Exuma Land through groves of palm and silver buttonwood, limestone sinkholes, a tidal creek-bed with lookout points and loyalist plantation ruins. Various beaches can be found on secluded coves on the leeward side.

Motel-style lodges in the downtown areas of major cities have a double-room charge averaging $95 to $125 per night, while luxury resorts charge up to 25 percent more.

There are “out island” lodges, which are less expensive, but the cost of food and transportation is greater because everything is imported.

Most resorts and hotels offer all-inclusive packages or three- and seven-day packages.

The Atlantis resort has 2,119 rooms, 230 suites, 21 eateries, 17 bars, seven swimming pools with slides and rides, four beaches, a casino and an outdoor aquarium with snorkeling. Prices start at $250.

The Comfort Suites is a three-story hotel with 320 junior suites, a pool and a spa. Rates are from $160 to $200 per person per night.

The Howelton Rose House is an old Georgian home with four rooms. Breakfast is served on the front porch. Rates range from $100 to $130 per night.

According to Travelocity, a roundtrip flight from Miami to Nassau from March 21 through March 25 costs $199 plus hotel and food expenses.

A three-night cruise on the Royal Caribbean departing March 18 costs $484. Carnival Cruise Lines charges $349.

Jackie Buigas, a student majoring in biology, said, “One of the stops for a cruise that I took was to the Bahamas. The best thing I did was visit the Atlantis Paradise Island Hotel with its beautiful aquarium, pools and casino.”

Paris, from page 6

ENTERTAINMENT

At some point during the two weeks I spent in France, I was invited to sing at an Irish Pub named Corcoran’s, in the trendy Paris neighborhood of St. Germain-des-Prés. My payment was free food at the pub and free board for one night at one of the cheapest Paris hotels, the nightly rate was 80 euros.

LOST AND FOUND

After spending the whole day watching the Eiffel Tower, I got to the Montparnasse station and, not looking at any signs and assuming I knew where to go, I took the wrong train.

I ended up in a town in the middle of nowhere, in the complete dark, and thought I’d spend the midnight hour alone in a desolate train station. To me, French rudeness is a false myth. It was French Samaritans who saved me and directed me to another train that took me to another station where I took yet another train back to La Falaise that night.

The trip back lasted three hours instead of one.

I arrived at 7:15 a.m. and the lady with whom I was staying drove me inside my fifth train of the day, so I could meet up with a couple of French girls I barely knew and proceed to the soiree (party) somewhere near Paris.
“Constantine” proves Reeves needs a career change

By LEONCIO ALVAREZ
Life! Editor

Hollywood needs to stop casting pretty-faced actors in roles that require talent.

Keanu Reeves, who did a horrible job in “The Matrix” trilogy, outdoes himself in “Constantine.”

As John Constantine, a cigarette-addicted exorcist who is trying to buy himself into heaven because he attempted suicide as a teen, Reeves tries to take a demon out of a little girl’s body.

The girl is strapped to a bed while family members and a priest repeatedly recite lines from the Bible. Sound a bit familiar?

I thought I was having yet another “Exorcist” flashback.

While the story may not be the most original, the special effects were a positive factor in this film.

When Reeves visits the director’s idea of hell, fiery images of demons surround the screen, making it look all too real.

Francis Lawrence’s fine first attempt at film directing must be mentioned.

After a career of directing Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson music videos, Lawrence has traveled into the film industry with an attitude that strives for realism instead of anything over the top.

However, right when the viewer thinks he or she is in the middle of a decent scene, Reeves destroys the possibility with his so-called acting.

The plot is very imaginative and creative, but the acting is just horrendous.

Perhaps the film would be better if the role of Constantine had been given to an actor and not a degraded surf reject who is getting too old to handle his own career.

Keanu Reeves gives a less than spectacular performance as a chain smoking exorcist in Francis Lawrence’s “Constantine.”

When will we see Reeves in a role holding Kirsten Dunst’s hand and walking down the beach? When he realizes he has a terminal disease and is going to die?

The best acting honors, in my opinion, would go to Tilda Swinton as the angel Gabrielle, and Lucifer’s main henchman Balthazar, played by Bush frontman Gavin Rossdale. Even though they are not major characters in the film and don’t own names known to many, their careers are promising and they provide exactly what the film is missing – talent.

The overall concept of “Constantine” is an imaginative one, even though the creativity is taken from the Alan Moore’s DC comic book, “Hellblazer.”

A fair attempt at recreating the comic strip was made.

Now, if only the cast would have been better chosen, then maybe the film would have met at least the average viewer’s expectations.

BAD HABIT, BAD TALENT: Keanu Reeves gives a less than spectacular performance as a chain smoking exorcist in Francis Lawrence’s “Constantine.”

BAD HABIT, BAD TALENT: Keanu Reeves gives a less than spectacular performance as a chain smoking exorcist in Francis Lawrence’s “Constantine.”

COURTESY PHOTO

“Constantine” Directed by Francis Lawrence

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MAXIM
Ore picked up her sixth win, as she improved to 6-3 on the season after pitching four scoreless innings of relief. She allowed just one hit while striking out six. Lindsay Dyer picked up the loss, falling to 5-2 for the year, after giving up two runs on six hits in 6 2/3 innings.

**FIU 9, MANHATTAN 0**

After suffering a tough defeat against Tulsa in the afternoon game on March 12, the Golden Panthers came back to pound Manhattan 9-0. FIU crushed the Jaspers in a five-inning mercy rule to advance to the semi-finals where the team got a rematch against Tulsa.

Nealer picked up the win for FIU as she improved her record to 8-6 for the season. Her nine strikeouts helped the Golden Panthers pick up their second one-hitter shutout of the tournament. The Golden Panthers scored two runs in the second inning, four in the third and capped off the win with a pinch-hit three-run blast from Ashley Falk.

**TULSA 1, FIU 0**

Tiffany Ore got the start for the Golden Panthers and produced a solid pitching performance. She went six innings and allowed three hits, while striking out 11 in a losing effort. Ore fell to 5-3 for the season.

"Unfortunately there’s a bit of luck involved in with hitting and we’re not getting much of it right now," Gwydir said.

The lone run of the game came in the second inning when Stephanie Sleeper smacked a solo home run over the left field wall. The Golden Panthers left four runners stranded and had a runner caught trying to steal third on two separate occasions.

**FIU 3, QUINNIPIAC 0**

The Golden Panthers and Tiffany Ore had an overall stellar performance against Quinnipiac on March 11. Ore recorded a career-high 14 strikeouts, and the FIU offense picked up a one-hit shutout, including a pair of homeruns.

The win improved Ore’s record to 5-2 on the season, as it provided the game-winning run and placed the Golden Panthers in the championship game.

"I’m very impressed with how our team pulled together and came back against a good Tulsa team," Gwydir said.
Freshman silences Scarlet Knight bats

BASEBALL, from page 12

the same result.”

Senior Danny “The Vulture” Hernandez pitched the final one and two-thirds innings to earn his fourth save of the season.

FIU 10, RUTGERS 14

A grand slam by junior Yahmed Yema wasn’t enough as the FIU pitching staff struggled against Rutgers hitters and allowed five homeruns for the game. Rutgers scored in all but one inning (the fifth) in the game.

“I was disappointed we lost,” said Price. “[In this game] you had to out-slug the other team. We weren’t going to out-slug the other team. We weren’t going to out-slug the other team. We weren’t going to out-slug the other team.”

Starting pitcher David Asher went five innings, allowed five runs, 10 hits, walked three and struck out five batters. FIU took a 10-7 lead after it scored six runs in the bottom of the sixth – an inning that included the aforementioned grand slam. However, FIU pitching let up and FIU bats went cold as the Scarlet Knights scored seven unanswered runs in the final three innings of the game. Junior relief pitcher Matt Rainey was saddled with his fourth loss of the season.

The Texas native pitched two and one-third innings, allowed six runs, seven hits, two homeruns and struck out one batter.

FIU 9, RUTGERS 0

In the final game of the series the Rutgers bats finally burned out, mainly due to an outstanding pitching performance from Elih Villanueva and a little help from the defense as well.

The freshman phenom pitched the first complete-game shutout of his young FIU career, struck out a career-high 13 batters and allowed only four hits.

“In the first two games [they hit the ball away good],” said Villanueva. “So I kept pitching inside and didn’t let them hang over the plate to hit the ball [to the opposite field].”

Villanueva’s outing did not stop FIU batters from producing as seven of their hits came off three homeruns.

“This was the best game we’ve played so far this season,” Price said. “[Rutgers] is a good ball club. They’ve beat some good teams.”

Sophomore Cody Jacobs went 3-for-4 with two homeruns and five RBIs, his second two-homerun game of the season.

Junior Nick Cadena gave the Golden Panthers an early 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning, with his third two-run homerun in four games.

Jacobs had a three-run homerun in the fourth and a two-run homerun in the fifth.

SPORTS

PICTURE CAPTION

Alex Hernandez/The Beacon

What’s your scholarship?

POWER SURGE: The Golden Panthers scored a total of 28 runs on 40 hits and hit total of six homeruns in the series against Rutgers. Alex Hernandez/The Beacon

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Short-lived pitchers band plans to return

Cabrera got the beat going by playing his conga drum, which gives the biggest impact of all the instruments. Junior reliever Frank Gonzalez kept the tempo by playing the cowbell.

“When Nick Cadena hit a homerun, he pointed to us and said it was because of us,” said Gonzalez. “We said, ‘Yeah, we know.’ He doesn’t need to tell us that.”

Freshman right-hander Elih Villanueva is the lead clapper. His job is to get other players in the dugout (mainly non-pitchers) to start clapping along with the beat.

“Every time we start it up, the teams come alive and we get runs on the board,” said Villanueva. “Pitchers are not only contributing on the mound, but off the mound as well.”

Freshman right-hander Les Rodriguez plays lead maraca with a 20 oz. Gatorade bottle filled with rocks which he shakes. Senior closer Danny Hernandez plays backup maracas – mini-maracas not much bigger than a pair of blow pops.

“I go home. I fall asleep and I still have the rhythm in my head,” said Hernandez. “There’s no way the other team can play under that pressure.”

Junior lefty Denny Hernandez plays the bass by hitting a bat against the dugout garbage can, creating a loud thumping sound.

Junior right-hander Matt Rainey plays the guiro by scraping his cleats on the drain of the dugout. He is the only non-Hispanic band member. Rainey, whom other band members refer to as the “token white guy”, says he brings a little Texas flavor to the band despite being rhythmically challenged.

“Yeah, we know.” He doesn’t need to tell us that.

The band remains optimistic for the future, despite the loss of their dugout venue, and is not ruling out any plans.

“W e need a good marketing department,” Cabrera said laughingly. “We’re definitely thinking of taking [the band] on the road.”
The Band

FIU pitchers create dugout band and credit themselves for creating energy and offense

By XAVIER VILLARMARZO  Staff Writer

Baseball has been famously known as a game in which pitchers rely on the position players for run production, defensive support and, sometimes, even moral encouragement.

But for three games this season, the FIU pitchers decided to give something back to the teammates who gave them support in more ways than one.

La Bateria (Spanish for “The Battery”), FIU’s dugout-based band, energized the team’s offensive firepower and terrorized opposing pitchers.

The band, composed solely of pitchers, claims to have been a vital part of the in victories on March 7 and 8 against Wagner and LaBelle, respectively, and the main force behind coach Danny Price’s historic 1000th win on March 10 against Quinnipiac.

Senior left-handed pitcher David Asher is the manager of the band and credits himself for its creation.

“Coach [Price] said we needed more energy in the dugout,” said Asher. “So I told these guys to put something together.”

And put something together they did, as six pitchers combined to form what they call the “greatest dugout-band in the history of the Eastern United States.”

Every time a Golden Panther got on base, the hip-shaking rhythms of the band soon followed to hype up their batter and intimidate opposing pitchers.

Senior right-hander and band leader Ammer "Friday Night" Cabrera (3-1) was the first FIU pitcher to face the hot bats of the Scarlet Knights. In seven innings of work, Cabrera allowed six runs (five earned), six hits, walked four and struck out another four batters to earn the win.

“I started bad right out of the gates,” said Cabrera. “Then, I settled down. Coach helped me get my head back in the game, and my team supporting me with the runs [also helped].”

Senior Dennis Diaz went 3-for-4 with two RBIs and a stolen base.

However, the player of the game was junior Nick Cadena. With the game tied at five in the bottom of the seventh inning, the third baseman hit a towering two-run homerun over the left field wall to give FIU a 7-5 lead they would never relinquish.

It was the second night in a row in which Cadena hit a two-run homerun in the bottom of the seventh inning. The first came against Quinnipiac in the historic 1000th win for Price.

“I stuck with the same approach I had [in the previous game],” said Cadena. “I was just looking for a pitch to hit, put my best swing on it and [produced]...”

See TEAM BAND, page 11

Softball comes up short in championship game

By NIKOLAY OREKHOV  Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers reached the tournament’s championship game for the fourth time this season, but came up just short of winning it all.

FIU reached the title game of the Blue & Gold Coca Cola Classic on March 13, but the team was not able to get past FAU, losing 5-2 in a 10-inning marathon.

The game was the second longest in the all-time series between the Golden Panthers and the Owls. FAU won an 11-inning affair 2-1, back on April 21, 2000. Ten of the last 14 contests between the two teams have been decided by only one run. FIU also set a season record for at bats with 33 in the game.

“We had our chances against FAU. I’m very proud of the team effort, and I really had a great time coaching that game,” said coach Kim Gwydir.

For the tournament, FIU finished with a 3-3 record and improved to 18-12 overall.

Tiffany Ore, Tabitha Embry and Ashley Falk were named to the all-tournament team for the Golden Panthers.

See TEAM BAND, page 11

Baseball wins two of three over Rutgers

By XAVIER VILLARMARZO  Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers showed no signs of slowing down after coach Danny Price’s 1000th win, by winning two games of a three-game series against the Scarlet Knights of Rutgers University, (6-5), March 11-13 at the Baseball Stadium at University Park.

FIU raised their season record to 16-6 in a series that featured a combined total of 49 runs, 73 hits and 10 homeruns. The offense-oriented series raised the Golden Panther’s team batting average to .307 and their team ERA to 2.97, the highest they’ve been this season.

FIU 9, RUTGERS 7

Ammer “Friday Night” Cabrera (3-1) was the first FIU pitcher to face the hot bats of the Scarlet Knights. In seven and one-third innings of work, Cabrera allowed six runs (five earned), six hits, walked four and struck out another four batters to earn the win.

“I started bad right out of the trenches,” said Cabrera. “Then, I settled down. Coach helped me get my head back in the game, and my team supporting me with the runs [also helped].”

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“I stuck with the same approach I had [in the previous game],” said Cadena. “I was just looking for a pitch to hit, put my best swing on it...”

See BASEBALL, page 10

The winning run for the Owls came as Jessica Sachs reached on an error in the 10th, enabling Lauren Crandall to score from third, as FAU defeated the Golden Panthers 3-2 to claim the tournament title on March 13.

Ore took the loss for FIU after coming in to pitch in relief in the 10th inning. The loss drops Ore’s record to 6-4 on the season.

“The effort was there. Enthusiasm was there. It just didn’t go our way. It’s just one of those funny things,” Gwydir said.

Megan Doonan picked up the win for FAU in her two innings of relief, as she improved her record to 4-6.

Amanda Nealer gave up two uncared runs and no walks while striking out six in nine innings of work for FIU, while Candice Fread allowed one run and struck out seven for the Owls.

FAU 3, FIU 2

The Golden Panthers added some extra excitement to their semi-final victory against Tulane in the Blue & Gold Coca Cola Classic over weekend.

See SOFTBALL, page 9