The Beacon, April 04, 2005

Florida International University

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Every year, students at the University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses prepare themselves to vote in the Student Government Association elections by reading flyers and signs, attending debates and discussing the choices with friends. Bombarded by a host of ideas and speeches, those who vote may get so involved with the election process that they forget that the candidates who spurt promises and beg for votes, are students just like them.

Through exclusive interviews with The Beacon, the presidential and vice presidential candidates decided to share a little bit about their interests, plans and passions.

ALEX PRADO (UP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE) AND CHRISTINE DENTON (VP CANDIDATE)

Alex Prado and Christine Denton seem to have a lot in common. They both like cookies and cream ice cream. They laugh at the same jokes. Their best times on campus have been those spent working for various FIU organizations. When together, they can’t stop smiling, and at times, they even finish each other’s sentences.

“It’s hard work but fun, running together for something we both believe in,” said Denton. Prado is majoring in international business and is a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha social fraternity. Relocating several times throughout his life because of his father’s government job, he has lived in Peru, the Philippines and Honduras.

Prado hopes to enter law school after graduation and plans to either manage his own restaurant or have a career in the state legislature.

When he has time, Prado likes to relax in his room or in the Graham Center piano lounge, listening to whatever music the students are playing.

“I’m always thinking,” he said. “Sometimes its good to just sit down and daydream.”

Denton, who is majoring in nursing, says nurses need patience and compassion to do their best job. When her sister was sick with cancer, she’d go to the hospital to spend time with her. That is where she met a nurse who inspired her to follow her career path.

“She was real caring, and it showed me that one person can work to help others,” Denton said.

She plans to earn her Master’s Degree after graduation, and, although she plans to continue her nursing career, Denton stated she wouldn’t mind becoming the CEO of a hospital one day.

AURELIO “PJ” RIVERA (UP VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE) AND CHAZ-LIT DROGUET (VP CANDIDATE)

Chaz-Lit Drougnet did not vote for me.

The A & S fee at BBC will be used for SGA President Prado’s running mate is Christine Denton and Rivera’s is Chaz-Lit Drougnet.

Faculty and student Government members met on March 29 in the Graham Center to hear and discuss students’ opinions on whether the activity and services fee should be raised by $1.38. The cost of both the Biscayne Faculty and student Government Recreation Services, the money will be allocated toward different needs.

“Operation of building, utilities, staffing and equipment,” said Frye, of the university’s plans for the money. “[This does not] include programs which usually come from a different fund, regular allocation toward the increase in sizing will cause the utilities’ cost to go from $10,000 to $200,000.”

The UP Recreational Center, which was originally scheduled to open last fall, will include twice the amount of studio space for classes than the Student Fitness Center as well as a 12,500 square foot fitness and workout area. It will also include larger locker rooms and an indoor basketball court. It should be open by the end of this month.

The A & S fee at BBC will be used to fund utilities of its new recreational center.

Elías Bárdawil, assistant director for Campus Life, Orientation and Recreation at BBC, calls the renovation a “mega recreational complex.” It will expand a 10,000 square foot facility by 50,000 square feet and connect to the Wolfe Center. •

“The money will be going to facilities that are much needed for the students and they will be able to see the effects of where their money is going through these tangible results,” said SGA President Jorge Rosario. “SGA can tell the students what each cent is benefiting and they can see where extra money is being allocated, so they may enjoy these new resources and facilities.”

SGA discusses raise of activity and services fee

By CRISTELA GUERRA

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By RODOLFO R. ROMAN
Staff Writer

According to a police report dated March 15, officer Andres Falcon reported that on Feb. 13, he found eight FIU Public Safety logo shirts in an open green dumpster.

In addition to the shirts, which were still pressed and on hangers, one yellow FIU raincoat and a pair of dark blue uniform trousers were found.

The police report states that the items were strewn about in the dumpster among the discarded files and office content of Jesse L. Campbell, assistant vice-president and director for the Department of Public Safety.

Falcon stated that the discarded property represented a “clear and present danger” to the safety of the university community and members of the Department of Public Safety, because anyone who had gained access to the clothes and discarded himself or herself as an FIU officer.

The suspect(s) allegedly placed the uniforms in the dumpster along with Campbell’s discarded files and office content. Once an officer is fired, retired or laid off, he is no longer affiliated with the department and becomes a regular civilian. There is a procedure where the officer has to return the department’s property to the property custodian.

Lt. Alphonse D. Ianniello says that Campbell didn’t follow the proper procedure of turning in FIU property properly. He also states that the department is fortunate that no one else got a hold of the uniforms.

According to Florida statute 821.125, a failure to redeliver hired or leased personal property may result in being convicted or found guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, unless the value of the personal property or equipment is a value of $300 or more.

“The improper dumping of the uniform and files is not a criminal act per se. However, it is a policy issue, not a statute issue,” said Ianniello.

As of press time, Human Resources confirmed that Campbell is still on FIU’s payroll and would receive a check on April 1 even though he retired in February. This information could not be further verified at this time.

Marcos Perez, vice-president of administration for Public Safety, couldn’t be reached to confirm Campbell’s case.

POLICEBEAT

A student reported that his black 1998 Ford Ranger was stolen on March 15 at the University Park Blue Garage. Upon returning from class, his car was gone. A check of the area was conducted, but no suspects have been found. The male student stated that he was not having any problems with anyone and was unable to pinpoint any suspect(s).

The car, with the tag number 1156XMB, is valued at $13,000.

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 16

On March 16, a student reported that his blue Toshiba laptop, worth $1,200, was stolen from the Research Carrel room in GL 318-C at UP. No suspects have been found.

A student reported that her black book bag was stolen from PC 426. The bag is valued at $125 and included a driver’s license, identification card and home and vehicle keys.

Compiled by Rodolfo Roman

Lost police uniforms found in university garbage dumpster

By RODOLFO R. ROMAN
Staff Writer

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Falcon stated that the discarded property represented a “clear and present danger” to the safety of the university community and members of the Department of Public Safety, because anyone who has been here for a while will use the metal plate name-tag,” said Ochipa. The items found are valued at $215.

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Candidates offer insight on personal lives, discuss goals

From CANDIDATES, page 2

Originally plan to run with Aurelio “P.J.” Rivera. However, after Robert Suarez, her first SGA run, Rivera originally plan to run with resident assistants in the campus and work as much better, but it has done so much, and yet it doesn’t do enough. It has the power to make students’ life so much better, but it has been moving slowly this year,” Rivera said. “That needs to change.”

Both candidates live on campus and work as resident assistants in the Housing Quad. They both describe change as a major part of their lives.

“My first day of school was horrible. I lost my keys, it rained [and] I couldn’t find my classes. This made me see how lost students can get. I didn’t want that to happen to anyone,” Rivera said. “I decided I was going to be out there, making myself known and getting to know more people.”

Away from home for the first time in her life, Droguett, agreed that her first weeks living on campus weren’t the best ones. Her routine consisted of attending classes and spending time mostly in her room. It was while working as a desk assistant in Panther Hall that her perspective on FIU changed.

“I got to see what FIU has to offer, and there were people helping me out. I knew I had made the right decision in coming here,” said the elementary education major.

Rivera, whose favorite books include “Lord of the Rings” and “The Da Vinci Code,” sees herself working in the future for a non-profit organization like The Red Cross or The United Way.

Droguett plans to continue a career as a full-time teacher, becoming a “mother to children who often don’t get enough love at home.”

ALINA BALEAN

(BBC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE)

School spirit at BBC or the lack of it—something Alina Balean feels strongly about. Since her start with SGA as the youngest speaker of the house, Balean has tried to increase activities and cheer around the campus. “The atmosphere is not of a school—we need a better and a quiet thinker. Though he has not had experience with SGA, Linton hopes his planning and vision will be enough to get him elected.

“My motivation to run stems from the strong interest that I have in student affairs,” he said. “BBC is a beautiful place but I feel that there is a lot more [that can be done to improve the quality of the services being offered to students on campus.]”

Linton describes his job as peer advisor in 2004 as the favorite experience, making his time at FIU a positive one. By majoring in accounting, Linton hopes to follow in the steps of his mother, an accountant for the past 25 years, whom he says has supported him in his choice.

The rest of the BBC candidates did not respond to attempts to interview them.

JOURNALISM

And ENGLISH MAJORS!

There are several positions available at The Beacon. If you’re thinking about getting a job at a newspaper, it would behoove you to get some experience with us. The following positions are available:

- Stop by our offices in GC 210 or WUC 124 for an application or e-mail Recruitment Editor C. Joel Marino at beaconcatrecruit@yahoo.com.
The Beacon recommends

**PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT**

Alex Prado and Christine Denton

Other candidates: Aurelio “P.J.” Rivera and Chaz-Lit Droguett

We recommend the Prado-Denton ticket because they have the most realistic goals and thoroughly researched platform. Based on their interview, it appears they have what it takes to actually implement their ideas. Above all, their combined experience handling finances within SGA and other organizations ensures that they will handle the over $7 million annual budget more responsibly and fairly than the less experienced ticket. There are several points about the Prado-Denton platform we want to address.

The Prado-Denton ticket knew exactly how to answer our questions about the presidential discretionary fund, which is the roughly $10,000 the SGA president may use or spend at discretion. Prado promises to end the year with a zero balance in the fund by giving aid to organizations that need additional funding to help benefit FIU students. The Prado-Denton ticket also wishes to eliminate the automated answering service and replace it with a student-operated customer service call center. This plan will replace the automated system with a staff of paid students who will answer and direct questions. The funding for this project is already in place. Prado and Denton promise to push it into action. We believe this is an excellent idea that will solve many of the bureaucratic problems associated with this campus.

Additionally, the Prado-Denton platform includes plans to implement a shuttle-bus system, based on systems in place at other Miami universities, which will transport students to and from the greater Miami area (Coconut Grove, downtown, etc.) from the University Park campus. The funding for this project would be minimal and would be provided mostly by the shuttle company. The shuttle system also is realistic enough to be completed within a relatively short period of time. It will be very useful for housing students and commuter students alike who want a safe ride to their weekend destinations.

The Prado-Denton ticket has several other goals, many of which we believe should be reconsidered or completely rethought. Their plans to push for an international student wing in the campus housing facilities will only serve to further isolate international students from other FIU students. Although we support Prado and Denton’s goal of a friendly community for homesick, international students, we believe that an integral part of an international student’s experience is integration with different people and a different culture. Another issue we hold with reservation is their plan to address faith-based groups. Their ballot sounds like blatant favoritism, which is unfair to the other groups and organizations that deserve equal treatment.

It may be noble to consider the religious groups and organizations on campus, but we feel that there are more important issues at stake, and that while facilitating the religious groups with a small office is helpful, it is unnecessary, especially considering the needs of other organizations on campus.

Candidates have talked about an off-campus meal plan for several years now, and the Prado-Denton promises to implement this long-sought after goal. However, with the upcoming renewal of Aramark’s contract (the food service provider for FIU) there is still a lingering uncertainty about this project. We question the benefit of spending money on this project, the number of students who would use the off-campus plan to its full extent is simply not sufficient enough to merit its immediate attention.

Both the Prado-Denton ticket and the Rivera-Droguett ticket promise to provide a better organization that will reach out to meet students’ needs more than ever before. Both platforms mention plans to make the existing SGA website and Panthersoft a powerful tool in student communication. They both also promise to lobby and fight for important issues such as Bright Futures Scholarships, fair online class fees and accelerated graduation programs.

We do not recommend the Rivera-Droguett ticket, because we think that while they have several interesting goals that would help the FIU community, they lack the experience and researched knowledge to ensure these goals are feasible and beneficial to our student body. There is also concern that Rivera and Droguett have only a limited knowledge of finances.

When we questioned them about the presidential discretionary fund, they had less objective goals than Prado and Denton did. There are several outstanding points we want to discuss about the Rivera-Droguett platform.
SGA elections depend on non-Greek voter turnout

The upcoming SGA election is a vital event that all FIU students, whether they are housing, commuter or interna- tional, should take seriously. Even though not all candidates seem to have qualifications to lead our university, everyone should vote.

Not only do students rely on student government represen- tatives to spend the $7.2 million budget allotted to SGA every year, but students forget that voting is the only way to make sure the money is appropriated properly. When elected, these student representatives are the only ones who can make sure the budget is properly spent.

Unfortunately, in most cases and for most students, it all comes down to money. The biggest range from where is the money going and who is in charge of spending it. Yet, now that elections are upon us, each of the candidates at the University Park campus and Biscayne Bay Campus are still unrepresented. The candidates that are running have ideas that are unfeasible, not researched or a complete waste of time and energy. This could easily be fixed if candidates won based on their platforms and not on their affiliation with Greek organiza- tions, which make up the largest percentage of student voters at UP and BBC. This alone, should angers students and unite them in government, but apathy keeps many from acting.

When it comes to time to vote, many students opt not to and later complain about events with low turnout rates. What do students expect? Voting is right around the corner, and it is safe to say, based on past elections, that the average student could not care less who is elected and who isn’t.

When the elections come around on April 4 and 5, non- Greeks won’t even vote if the platform doesn’t seem feasible. dramati- cally represent your university by picking up a ballot and doing what the community needs you to do – vote.

Alexandra Dia, Editor in Chief
Leonia Alvarez, Life! Editor

PRESIDENT’S ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

President

Alina Balean
Other candidates: Leoncio Alvar, Mari Cabrera, Omar “Bill” Buchanan,

- Preside over the SGC meetings and provide direc- tions for those meetings, including setting the agenda and conducting the business of the meet- ing in accordance with the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order and all provi- sions of the SGA Constitu- tion and Bylaws. He/She will vote only in case of a tie.
- Represent the interests of the SGA president and faculty of his/her campus.
- Fulfill all duties and responsibilities of the SGC University Council.
- Serve as an official repre- sentative to all students to campus governing bodies and recom- mend names for appointment to University committee.
- Convene special SGC meetings, provided there is at least 48 hours notice of the meeting.
- Appoint assistants, as needed, to major- ity approval of the SGC faculty in attendance at a regular meeting.
- Authorize any disburse- ment of SGC funds in the absence of the Finance Com- mittee Chairperson.

From VOTE, page 4

The Rivera-Drogue ticket promises to hold monthly round- table lunch hours for students. On any FIU student interested in attend- ing. At these meetings, students will have the opportunity to speak with Rivera and Drogue as vice president to discuss any problems or concerns at FIU. This is an excellent idea, better than any suggested by Pink and Denton, and would promote a more open SGA.

The other powerful item on the Rivera-Drogue ticket was a plan to amend the SGA constitu- tion to allow an international stu- dent voting representative on the student council. With the right planning, the international pres- ence can be a viable asset, giving international students a voice that does not currently exist. Rivera and Drogue also plan to upgrade the dining services and add ATMs to the engineering campus. Finally, they promise to increase the presence of spent services and to fight for the proposed new grading scale.

Alfonso “Alfie” Leon
Other candidates: Mari Cabrera, Omar “Bill” Buchanan, Morgan NeColle Darity, Ray Morgan, Robert Suarez

Of the six candidates running for SGA president, only two answered The Beacon’s ques- tionnaires and participated in the interviews. Therefore we will only discuss the candidates who presented their platforms.

While Leon’s platform shares many goals with the Rivera-Drogue ticket (as dis- cussed above), we recommend Leon because his experience surpasses any of the other candidates, and because he presented very well-researched plans of action. Like the other candidates he is committed to protecting Bright Futures and fighting against tuition increases. He also pro- poses to create more quiet study areas in the library and the international lounge. At these meetings, students will be presented with an online service that would allow songs and movies to be down- loaded legally. Though the onlinedownloading service is feasible and would be pleasing for stu- dents, The Beacon questions what would happen to the library network, which already has prob- lems with overuse.

We candid Leon will fail to justify his platform and fight for their concerns and problems.

No other candidate recommended for the vice presi- dents. We did not recommend Mari Cabrera because of her poor platform, lacks the understanding of how SGA works and her knowledge about campaigns. Cabrera called for a new grading scale, but the answers to the questionnaires were less informative. We believe there are plenty of room for students to add to the GGC in exchange for a 24 hour GC and to promote more open SGA.

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The recommendations for lower division representatives and other groups and organizations are available with the full story, online at www.beaconnewspaper.com.
Flashback to the ‘60s with “HAIR: The Musical,” the most recent production to come to the University Park Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

“HAIR,” originally subtitled “The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical,” has changed musical theater forever, as it reflects a generation dominated by drugs, sex and war.

“Although Woof tries to hide his flamboyance, it always comes out. My character is in love with Berger (Roger Benavides), but Berger is in love with Claude,” said senior Jonathan Gonzalez whose character is torn between his religious beliefs, sexuality and drug use.

Among the members of the long-haired tribe are Claude and Berger a pair of friends battling against Claude’s draft notice, and Sheila (Sarah Brohee), who is in love with both of them. There is also Jeannie (senior Minette Perez) who is always protesting about something, and together with several other characters, they sum up the hippy days of the ‘60s.

“The Age of Aquarius is unification and awareness of reality, man, the world and the human state. It has nothing to do with labeling; it has to do with acceptance,” said Millis.

“Hair: The Musical” gives new light to anti-war and religious topics

By BETSY MARTINEZ
Assistant Life! Editor

It’s not just an anti-war play as much as it is a pro-love play,” said Robinson.

“We have to show the genocide that happened in Vietnam, and it really happened,” said Millis.

The audience follows the tribe of politically-active, long-haired ‘Hippies of the Age of Aquarius’ as they fight against the Vietnam War’s draft in song and dance.

“The audience is amazed by the passion,” said Millis.

“The Age of Aquarius is unification and awareness of reality, man, the world, and the human state. It has nothing to do with labeling; it has to do with acceptance,” said Millis.

Among the members of the long-haired tribe are Claude and Berger a pair of friends battling against Claude’s draft notice, and Sheila (Sarah Brohee), who is in love with both of them. There is also Jeannie (senior Minette Perez) who is always protesting about something, and together with several other characters, they sum up the hippy days of the ‘60s.

The production’s songs address subjects like masturbation, fellatio and marijuana. They include songs such as, “Aquarius,” “Let the Sunshine In,” “Easy to Be Hard” and the title song, “Hair.”

Opening night is April 7 at 8 p.m., and the show will continue to run until April 17. Ticket prices start at $10 for FIU Students, and $12 for general admission.

For more information contact the FIU box office at (305) 348-3789.
LIFE! www.beaconnewspaper.com

The Beacon – April 4, 2005

During every NFL football game the home team must provide the referee with 24 footballs. If the team does not provide the balls, the game will be postponed by the referee.

1. BLOGGING
I love to blog ... about anything, especially randomness. The best part of blogging is getting a reaction from my readers – a laugh, a thought, a sigh. Sadly, no one has cried yet.

2. DAVE MATTHEWS BAND
How else would I survive long bus rides? Throughout the years, bands come and go, but Dave remains. Even if they never existed, I would miss them.

3. BELLE
She is clearly the best Disney princess of all time. She's the only princess who reads books, and if there were to be a Disney princess with a degree, she would be it.

4. REFRESCO COUNTRY CLUB
This Dominican soft-drink is actually pronounced “Contri-Clu,” and you must drink it directly from the bottle. This is the only thing that makes me feel like an authentic ‘Dominicana’.

5. UNO CARD GAME
I am the queen of Uno, and I challenge anyone to a game of it. Even though I have not been playing for a long time, I consider myself a pro. The blank cards get on my nerves though. I always wonder, do they bother anyone else?

INTO THE SCENE: Poplife offers club-goers three rooms in which different styles of music are played to satisfy everyone’s taste in music.

By JOCELYNN RON
Contributing Writer

When South Beach’s effect wears off and nights get too expensive to enjoy, looking for new things to do can become a scavenger hunt.

Sophomore Greicy Carvajal was bored with the South Beach scene and she wanted a place to hang out with her friends when she heard about Poplife, a dance club located at 30 NE 14 St. in Miami, (three blocks west of Biscayne Blvd. on 14 St.).

“[Poplife] was different but it was good because it’s not what you usually hear, music-wise, and people are different but really nice and open. You just have to enjoy the atmosphere. It has a little bit for everyone,” said Carvajal.

Poplife introduces new bands to the music scene almost every weekend and comes to life each Saturday night in what is usually known as I/O Lounge. The difference is the music.

It is comprised of three rooms. The first room, known as the Bar Room, contains a huge flat screen TV hanging from the ceiling, where movies are played according to the night’s theme.

Walls decorated with stars and psychedelic patterns sparkle and enhance the scene. People mingling and talking across the bar and carefully placed sofas seem happy and relaxed, sharing the space with dancing folks going in and out of the room.

Michael Jackson, Prince and Madonna, among many other ‘80s singers, are standards for DJs in the Bar Room, but anything goes, and sometimes break-dancers have a field day there. If mingling and alcohol is not enough, the Dance Room offers a disco ball and enough space to spark up a bit of action.

It is in this room where the bands usually play and where things get interesting.

With a stage, another hanging screen and an additional set of sofas, the Dance Room gets packed with people who love to dance to all kinds of alternative dance classics from the ‘80s until today. Even Justin Timberlake can bang out a song or two, followed by something as remote as an oldie from The Cure or something more unconventional from The Strokes.

In this place, professional dance moves don’t really matter. If dancing becomes too tiresome, the Garden is always available.

With low down tempo music and a nice set of chairs and tables all around, it is the prefect place to share a drink and a nice conversation without having to shout or strain your hearing abilities.

“My favorite room is the Garden, because you can chill and meet new people without having to shout,” said junior Adi Dardik.

Poplife appeals to anyone that wants to find something different.

“Poplife draws a more intellectual and open minded crowd that likes art and underground music – a nice variety of people all over,” said student Diego Lopez.

Poplife is open to anyone over 18. It costs $7, but is $10 for those under 21 years old.

By JOCELYNN RON
Contributing Writer

Downtown Miami club pops to life

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It is in this room where the bands usually play and where things get interesting.

With a stage, another hanging screen and an additional set of sofas, the Dance Room gets packed with people who love to dance to all kinds of alternative dance classics from the ‘80s until today. Even Justin Timberlake can bang out a song or two, followed by something as remote as an oldie from The Cure or something more unconventional from The Strokes.

In this place, professional dance moves don’t really matter. If dancing becomes too tiresome, the Garden is always available.

With low down tempo music and a nice set of chairs and tables all around, it is the prefect place to share a drink and a nice conversation without having to shout or strain your hearing abilities.

“My favorite room is the Garden, because you can chill and meet new people without having to shout,” said junior Adi Dardik.

Poplife appeals to anyone that wants to find something different.

“Poplife draws a more intellectual and open minded crowd that likes art and underground music – a nice variety of people all over,” said student Diego Lopez.

Poplife is open to anyone over 18. It costs $7, but is $10 for those under 21 years old.
Women’s Studies conference gives new meaning to feminism

By YAHNILET COLON
Contributing Writer

What comes to mind when you hear the word “feminist”? If your response is bra-burning, male-bashing or butch women you probably wouldn’t be in the minority.

Many people believe these radical stereotypes represent all feminists worldwide. It was these kinds of stereotypes that the Fourth Annual Women’s Studies Student Conference tried to dispel.

This year’s conference, held March 29 in the Graham Center Ballrooms at the University Park campus, was a full day event co-sponsored by the Women’s Studies Student Association, the Women’s Studies Board of Advisors and the Women’s Center.

Comprised of various sessions, all dealing with a different aspect of the female experience in modern society — as well as women in literature, film, history and social policy — the conference brought together a range of FIU students and members of the community interested in advancing the equality of women in today’s society.

FIU students and alumni were welcome to put together presentations, write papers and create posters that dealt with women’s issues and the representation of women in various areas of study.

“I’m hoping the Women’s Studies Conference will inspire students and the community to become more involved and concerned with women’s issues,” said senior Loraine de la Fe.

After a light breakfast, the conference commenced with discussion and presentations regarding gender and social policy.

Common myths of women being innately non-violent were challenged by presenter Ian Morris, who graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in history and women’s studies from FIU in 2004.

Morris read from his paper titled “Sugar Spice,” which cited various studies which proved, among other things, that white, privileged women were more likely to kill in anger than non-white men.

Lara Goldsmith, a senior majoring in women’s studies who hopes to go into a medical field specializing in women’s health, discussed the current conflict between midwifery and obstetrics.

“Women have lost the feeling of empowerment in regards to the birth process, particularly in America. There is even word of current legislation in Florida threatening to not have midwifery covered by Medicaid.

It’s important because many of these women on Medicaid are already limited; [such legislation] only increases that limit,” said Goldsmith.

In the conference sessions that followed, students also discussed gender and literary and film analysis, as well as topics ranging from abortion rights to aging strippers.

“I’m hoping the Women’s Studies conference gives new meaning to feminism, and is president for FIU’s chapter of the National Organization for Women.

Members of Professor Karen Garner’s U.S. Women’s History course presented the class’s oral history project in which they interviewed many of the founders of the Women’s Studies Center, which was established in 1982.

They also discussed the different approach that many feminists take in interviewing other women.

Unlike the typical male model of interviewing which emphasizes an objective approach, the feminist model encourages a bond between the interviewer and his or her subject.

The conference also discussed the need to reclaim feminism and what it really means to be a feminist.

“Feminism is a state of mind,” said junior Rebeca Lubin, who is majoring in women’s studies and is president for FIU’s chapter of the National Organization for Women.

She encourages women to wear “This is what a Feminist looks like” t-shirts to promote the diversity of those interested in the equality of women and people in general in our society.

The shirts are available through various political websites such as northernunion.com and coptiunion.com.

In addition to the various presentations and panels, there was a brief poster and buffet lunch session.

The poster-makers were available for questioning about their work which ranged from posters that depict pregnant women to cohabitation and marriage, as well as the continuing campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Scholarship and award announcements were also presented, most notably for the Elaine Gordon Scholarship, which is awarded to one student per semester by a committee of Gordon’s adult children.

Gordon was one of the first trail-blazer feminists in the state of Florida.

Megan Kelley, a junior majoring in women’s studies and health services, received this prestigious award.

“T’m honored that the Elaine Gordon Committee believes that I hold the same values Elaine Gordon held, because her values were important for all women,” said Kelley, upon receiving the award.

Kelley hopes to go into the public health field to promote the right of women to know about their bodies and to have control over them.

Guests of honor and members of the women’s studies Founding Board of Advisors, Roberta Fox, a lawyer in Miami-Dade County and former Flor ida senator, and Marjorie Adler, Employee Relations director for the city of Coral Gables, left the crowd with words of wisdom as they encouraged women to become involved in government and their community.

THE SCHOOL YEAR IS ALMOST OVER!
(It’s about time!)

Things are winding down around school but at The Beacon, we’re just getting geared up for next year. The Life! section is always looking for talent and there’s no better way to get the Summer started than with a batch of new writers.

Stop by our offices in GC 210 or WUC 124 for an application or e-mail Recruitment Editor C. Joel Marino at beaconrecruit@yahoo.com.
Pope John Paul II leaves legacy after death

By C. JOEL MARINO
Senior Staff Writer

Thousands of spectators knelt in prayer on the pavement of St. Peter’s Square in Rome after Vatican officials announced that Pope John Paul II, leader of the Roman Catholic Church for the past 26 years, passed away April 2 due to complications from a urinary tract infection.

Vigils began around the world following reports on March 31 that the pontiff contacted blood poisoning from the infection, which resulted in kidney and heart failure. The 84-year-old pope, who battled with Parkinson’s disease for the last years of his life, had been weak and unable to speak since last Easter Sunday.

“This evening or this night, Christ opens the door to the Pope,” Angelo Comastri, vicar general for the Vatican City, told the praying crowd a day before the death, according to the Associated Press.

From Africa to Asia to South America, world leaders wrote condolences and offered prayers. In the White House, President Bush and his wife made statements of admiration for the Pope and offered prayers. Leaders wrote condolences to South America, world government through the influence of the Soviet Union.

After climbing the hierarchy of the church, Wojtyla was elected to the highest position of Catholicism in 1978 following the short term of Pope John Paul I. Taking his predecessor’s name in his honor, the 58-year-old cardinal became one of the young church rulers and both the first Slavic pope in history and first non-Italian pope in over 400 years.

Also considered the most traveled pontiff ever, John Paul II is remembered for his trips to communist-ruled countries during the Cold War. These trips are credited with helping to bring about the fall of the Iron Curtain.

Despite taking such liberal actions as issuing a church apology in 1992 and attending a Jewish service in Israel (the only pope to have ever done so), John Paul II was also decidedly conservative about issues like homosexuality and abortion, which he considered to be grave sins. He also stood fast in his refusal to ordain women as priests or abolish celibacy.

“In some areas he was very forward-minded. In others, however, he was an extremely traditionalist pope,” said Giovanni Ferro, editor of the Italian Catholic magazine Jesus in a CNN interview. “He maintained all sorts of opposing currents in the church, with the result that his successor will probably be faced with a great crisis of direction.”

Cardinals from all over the world will convene in Rome within the next few days to hold a period of mourning. They will then gather to elect a successor following stringent rules last updated by John Paul II himself.

A mass attended by world dignitaries was held April 3. The Pope’s burial will take place after 15 days of mourning.

Pope John Paul II

1920 – 2005

Throughout his pontificate, Pope John Paul II broke barriers and set many records. His 1978 election as the 246th pope was seen as a surprise victory after he became the first Slavic church leader in history and the first non-Italian pope in 455 years. Throughout his reign, the Pope made 170 visits to 115 different countries. He beatified and canonized over 1,300 saints, the most for a single pope. As the cardinals meet to elect a successor, experts agree he will have big shoes to fill.

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS: The world mourns Pope John Paul II’s death and awaits any news of his successor.

COURTESY PHOTO

The world mourns Pope John Paul II's death and awaits any news of his successor.
Lineup and defense make Marlins a threat

Bonds will be out until possibly mid-season. But just like we disregarded the fact that Randy Johnson gave up six runs to a Triple-A team, we should overlook the Marlins’ sub-par record now. Let’s get into what’s really important.

In 2003, when the Marlins won their second World Series, they were 17th in the league in hitting and 28th in pitching. How’d they win? Defense! The Marlins have had one of the best defenses in the majors for years now. Shortstop Alex Gonzalez has one of the surest hands in the game, and Mike Lowell is consistently solid at third base. Luis Castillo and Juan Pierre seem to be able to get to any ball hit, and few people know that Juan Encarnacion didn’t commit a single error in 2003.

If you have watched the Marlins for the last three years, you would know there is only one piece missing in the puzzle: a left-handed power hitter. Well, this is no longer the case, because Carlos Delgado will be mending first base for a long time to come.

We all know that Delgado will belt his usual 30 home runs in the clean up spot, but just think of what he will do for third baseman Miguel Cabrera. Pitchers will be forced to pitch to him out of fear of putting runners on for Delgado. Expect Cabrera to have a career year.

Marlins still have many question marks

Beckett has a continuous blister problem that has put him on the injured list every year he’s been in the majors. He has never pitched 30 games in a season, which is the season average for major league pitchers – and his career high in wins in a season is nine, when he went 9-8 and 9-9 in 2003 and 2004, respectively.

As for Burnett, his story is nearly identical. In five-plus seasons with the Marlins, Burnett only started 99 games, a lousy average of about 18 games per season. Burnett is a sub .500 pitcher (37-38) for his career. He recorded only 12 wins in 2002 – his career high in a season. He missed nearly the entire 2003 campaign due to an elbow injury, which he says still feels sore occasionally.

If those are not big enough concerns, how about the fact that the highly profiled addition of Leiter is not actually as glamorous as it seems when it’s broken down into numbers? Leiter is old and he’s on his way out. He never reached the seventh inning in a game, averaged just over five innings per start and only won 10 games for the Mets last season.

Also, the rookie sensation that took Miami by storm in 2003 has just as many uncertainties as the rest. Dontrelle Willis might have hit a wall last season, and it will be interesting to see if he’s able to get out of the sophomore slump.

After having a great first season, which earned him the Rookie of the Year honors, nothing is guaranteed, as he finished below .500 with a 10-11 record in 2004.

Pitching is the key element of a winning formula in baseball, and with all the unanswered questions facing the Marlins’ current pitching staff, it is way too early to start ordering the bubbly for the post-season celebrations.

Now, despite all the changes, improvements and acquisitions the Marlins made, the team currently holds the worst spring training record (9-19) in the majors.

Many fans will say that Spring Training is only practice, that the team’s Spring Training record doesn’t matter, that the Marlins will improve their play come the regular season, and that there is nothing to worry about.

Well, hopefully those optimistic fans are all right and not just hoping against hope. But that’s not the way it works.

It is not practice that makes perfect, but rather perfect practice that makes perfect. And the Marlins are lacking that perfect practice. As they have not shown anything to be perfect, no matter how good a team looks on paper, games must still be played to determine the championship.

Money, hype and potential become useless terms when it comes to championship ships. The New York Yankees proved that for the past four years.
Sprinter hopes to go professional after FIU

BROOKS, from page 12

sided. They say one thing at a certain time and then, at another time, they say something else.

Q: What is Manchester, Jamaica like?

Manchester is on the hill. It’s cool, nice climate. Everyone wants to go to Man-chester. It’s not as good as Ocho Rios, because that’s where all the tourists go. [But] there’s a lot of entertainment and the crime is nothing like in Kingston.

Q: What are your thoughts on the steroids scandal that has been a black cloud over the sport of Track & Field for many years?

I don’t think we should be taking steroids and [other performance enhanc- ers]. You’re not gonna feel the side effects now, but you’ll feel them later on. I don’t think [track & field athletes] should be going that way. You can perform much better without taking steroids. All you have to do is train hard and eat right.

Q: You are offered a completely legal magic pill that shaves one second off your average time, but it also shaves five years off your life. Would you take it?

No, I wouldn’t take it. I’m cutting my lifespan [for something I can get] if I get the right program and train really hard. I don’t have to take a pill to do that. I don’t care if it does it in an instant. Give me the hard training and I’ll do it to cut the time off.

Q: You are offered $10 million in exchange for ability to run as fast as you do. Would you accept the offer?

It’s not worth it. This is my life you’re talking about. You can get that money other ways, because if you win a Euro-pean meet, you can make a lot of money. So those $10 million will be nothing when you get older.

Q: What are your plans with Track & Field after FIU?

Hopefully, I’ll go professional in the 100-meter and 200 meter [outdoor] events. I’ll still do indoor events, but the outdoor events are where you’re recognized more.

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**GOOD TIMES:** Marlin's hope to relive the success of their 2003 season.

**DOWN TIMES:** The Marlin’s Spring performance shows signs of trouble.

**Will Marlins overcome Spring slump?**

**YES**

By ALDEN GONZALEZ

Staff Writer

Let’s get one thing out of the way: Spring Training is completely insubstantial. Analyzing a team based on how well it does with a split squad and half of its minor league system is completely ridiculous. It seems as if writers are running out of ways to bring down the Marlins every time they have a chance at making a run.

If we were to really take spring training seriously, then we would take into account that Gabe Gross (who?!), reserve outfielder for the Toronto Blue Jays, has held eight homeruns in just 24 games.

If he keeps this pace into the regular season, he will finish off the year with 55 homeruns. That would be more than Sammy Sosa, Adrian Beltre, Troy Glaus, Manny Ramirez and everybody else. There he is ladies and gentlemen – Gabe Gross. MVP, MVP!

The only other thing that needs to be taken into account from Spring Training is injuries.

We now know that the Chicago Cubs starting rotation will not be the best in the National League with Kerry Wood and Mark Prior out.

However, anyone who has any sense about sports, and baseball specifically, knows that nothing is guaranteed. It is true that, on paper, the Marlins are stacked with potentially the best and most versatile offensive lineup in the National League.

From top to bottom, they are well balanced with speed and power. And the addition of Delgado really gives them the left-handed power-hitter the team sorely needs to plug in between Miguel Cabrera and Mike Lowell.

Now with that in mind, there are still plenty of concerns that need to be addressed.

The team’s starting pitching may seem solid and potentially overpowering on paper, but they will be manager Jack McKeon’s biggest concern this season.

I mean, let’s face it – Josh Beckett and A.J. Burnett have arguably the best stuff of all pitchers in baseball when they’re healthy. And staying healthy has been a major problem for both of them throughout their careers.

See OREKHOV, page 10

**NO**

By NIKOLAY OREKHOV

Staff Writer

So the Marlins acquired the biggest free-agent name in franchise history with Carlos Delgado, picked up veteran Al Leiter and revamped their entire bullpen for another potential playoff run in 2005.

However, anyone who has any sense about sports, and baseball specifically, knows that nothing is guaranteed.

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See OREKHOV, page 10

**Track star adapts to new country and lifestyle**

By XAVIER VILLARMARZO

Sports Editor

When you think of sprinter Sheri-Ann Brooks, the first thing you'll think of is her speed, velocity and endurance.

In the NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships March 12, Brooks earned All-America honors for the first time in her career, after placing seventh in the finals of the women's 60-meter dash with a time of 7.32 seconds – just .11 seconds off the PRU school record.

But despite her prowess on the track, this Manchester, Jamaica native misses her home-cooked meals and would never take a shortcut to reach the top of her game.

Q: You compete in both the indoor 60-meter dash and the outdoor 100-meter dash. For you, what is the biggest difference between them?

For me, I'm tall, so there's a disadvantage in the 60, because in the 100-meter, you have more ground to cover. If you make a mistake in the 60, that's it. You cannot cover any ground after.

Q: How does it feel to have been awarded All-America honors for your performance in the NCAA indoor track championships?

It felt good, but it was not what I expected. In the 60-meter, on my third step I stumbled. I was supposed to be in the top three but came in seventh and be an All American. That's the biggest difference.

Q: What is the biggest difference with the way Track and Field is handled in the U.S. compared to the way it is in Jamaica?

We didn't have these facilities in Jamaica. To me, the training in Jamaica is better. I did more stuff based on my needs but here, the program is general. In Jamaica, we think about Track & Field in a variety of ways. We don't just think about training. We think about it nutrition-wise, training [and] making sure you get your rest and all that stuff. They don't just think about "OK you have to come to training, you have to do your work," all that and so forth.

Q: What is the biggest difference between Miami and your hometown of Jamaica, California?

I think it's more fun (in Jamaica), probably, because all my family is there. But here, you have to meet new people or just try to fit in. In Jamaica you have your family and friends so everything is normal. Back home I'm used to my real rice and chicken. [Also], people's approach to things here is much different. In Jamaica people are straight up with you and [they] say what they have to say. Here, people tend to be two-faced.

I ended up in seventh. So I was upset.

Q: Would you rather win a race than receive All America Honors?

Not really, but it would be better if you win and be an All American than to come in seventh and be an All American. That's the biggest difference.

See BROOKS, page 11