SGA discusses raise of activity and services fee

By CRISTELA GUERRA  
Staff Writer

Faculty and student Government members met on March 29 in the Graham Center at University Park 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 Bay Campus Recreational Center and the UP Recreational Center would be covered by an estimated 70% if this increase passes.

The raise would increase the fee from $9.14 to $10.52 and would be per student fee and hour fee.

Two SGA, two faculty members and the S & A finance committee would vote on the decision. If passed, it will be taken to the president of FIU where it would be reviewed and decided on by the Board of Trustees. The A & S fee covers the majority of student’s fees for facilities as well as recreation and athletics.

According to Chuck Tinder, senior director for the College of Finances, the last increase of the A & S fee was three years ago, and it was increased by $1.09. According to Tinder, FIU’s A & S fee is far lower than that of other universities. If this fee is raised, it would allow for an extra $1,084,000 to be allocated toward the Recreation Center’s development.

According to Rob Frye, director for 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.

Elias Bardawil, 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 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 results.”
Lost police uniforms found in university garbage dumpster

By RODOLFO R. ROMAN
Staff Writer

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 said that he was not having any problems with anyone and was unable to pinpoint any suspect(s). The car, with the tag number H156XMB, is valued at $13,000.

On March 16, a student reported that his blue Toshiba laptop, worth $1,200, was stolen from the Carrel Research 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.

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 said that he was not having any problems with anyone and was unable to pinpoint any suspect(s). The car, with the tag number H156XMB, is valued at $13,000.

On March 16, a student reported that his blue Toshiba laptop, worth $1,200, was stolen from the Carrel Research 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.

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 said that he was not having any problems with anyone and was unable to pinpoint any suspect(s). The car, with the tag number H156XMB, is valued at $13,000.

On March 16, a student reported that his blue Toshiba laptop, worth $1,200, was stolen from the Carrel Research 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.

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 said that he was not having any problems with anyone and was unable to pinpoint any suspect(s). The car, with the tag number H156XMB, is valued at $13,000.

On March 16, a student reported that his blue Toshiba laptop, worth $1,200, was stolen from the Carrel Research 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.

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 said that he was not having any problems with anyone and was unable to pinpoint any suspect(s). The car, with the tag number H156XMB, is valued at $13,000.

On March 16, a student reported that his blue Toshiba laptop, worth $1,200, was stolen from the Carrel Research 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.

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 said that he was not having any problems with anyone and was unable to pinpoint any suspect(s). The car, with the tag number H156XMB, is valued at $13,000.

On March 16, a student reported that his blue Toshiba laptop, worth $1,200, was stolen from the Carrel Research 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.

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 said that he was not having any problems with anyone and was unable to pinpoint any suspect(s). The car, with the tag number H156XMB, is valued at $13,000.

On March 16, a student reported that his blue Toshiba laptop, worth $1,200, was stolen from the Carrel Research 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.

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 said that he was not having any problems with anyone and was unable to pinpoint any suspect(s). The car, with the tag number H156XMB, is valued at $13,000.

On March 16, a student reported that his blue Toshiba laptop, worth $1,200, was stolen from the Carrel Research 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.

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 said that he was not having any problems with anyone and was unable to pinpoint any suspect(s). The car, with the tag number H156XMB, is valued at $13,000.

On March 16, a student reported that his blue Toshiba laptop, worth $1,200, was stolen from the Carrel Research 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.

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 said that he was not having any problems with anyone and was unable to pinpoint any suspect(s). The car, with the tag number H156XMB, is valued at $13,000.

On March 16, a student reported that his blue Toshiba laptop, worth $1,200, was stolen from the Carrel Research 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.

POLICEBEAT
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–
Aurelio “P.J.” Rivera.
originally plan to run with Housing Quad.
on campus and work as a major part of
change as a major part of
the organization during the last few years.
“SGA can do 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.
“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 himself the Rings and the now famous “Dragostea Din Tai.” Within the last few weeks the song has become known in the United States as the “Nuna Numa Song” after an avid fan video taped himself lip syncing and sent it throughout the Internet.
Balean counts her first day of orientation as one of her happiest experiences at FIU and, if the elections don’t go her way, she said she will count April 7 as the worst day.
When stressed, Balean likes to sit and take a break in the fresh air of her favorite place of campus – the Biscayne Bay shore.
Balean, who is majoring in advertising, plans to open her own advertising and real estate agencies.

UNA BALEAN
(BBC PRESIDENTIAL CAN-
didate)

School spirit at BBC or the lack of it—is 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 an introvert 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.”

LEMAR LINTON
(BBC VP CANDIDATE)

Unlike candidates who emphasize their socializing and people skills, Lemar Linton considers himself somewhat of an introvert 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.”

VIGIL FOR HOPE: On March 31, “Take Back the Night” an event intended to raise awareness about violence against women took place at a march around the whole UP campus. Graduate student Karin Staneck and faculty member Dove-Anne Bille distributed candles that signified bringing light to the world-wide issue. – Compiled by Reuben M. Pereira

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 beaconnectruit@yahoo.com.
The Beacon recommends

**POWER TO THE PEOPLE**

**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 his or her discretion. Prado promises to end the year with a zero balance in the fund by giving aid to organizations that needs 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-Drogueit ticket promise to be lean SGA into an organization that will reach out to meet students’ needs more than ever before. Both parties 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-Drogueit ticket, because we think that while they have several important 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 Drogueit 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 other points we want to discuss about the Rivera-Drogueit platform.

See VOICE, page 5
The Beacon recommends

President
Alina Balean
Other candidates:
Natalie Jean-Baptiste

We recommend Balean because of her experience in SGA despite the fact that some of her answers were un researched and Balean was unable to answer key questions. Some of these questions related to the availability of funds for a continued beautification project, how to update UB and BBC and she also demonstrated a limited knowledge of the steps needed to keep food vendors open later at night. Notwithstanding the obvious obstacles that stand in Balean’s way, some of her ideas were concrete and she was able to demonstrate how she would achieve such goals. According to her platform, Balean promises to better promote SGA by implementing a “bring a friend day.” The plan calls for each SGA member to bring at least one friend to the weekly SGA meetings. This idea is not only creative but also insightful. It demonstrates Balean’s understanding of what SGA has been working toward for years and increased student participation. Balean also hopes to address students’ needs for cleaner facilities throughout the BBC campus.

We do not recommend Jean-Baptiste because we feel that her experience as a lower division representative has not given her the knowledge needed to carry the presidential position. During our interview with Jean-Baptiste we were able to detect that Jean-Baptiste lacks the understanding of how SGA works and her plan to beautify the Bay Village as concrete as expected out of a presidential candidate. Although Jean-Baptiste has plans to beautify the BBC and has experience as a previous student member to the Finance Committee and paint- ing the outside of the Bay Vista Housing complex, she was unsure as to where the funding for such a project would come from. The platform also included a daycare service and a plan to increase the presence of FIU Athletics at BBC so that students feel more integrated into campus life.

Linton’s platform promises increased unity between UB and BBC, more services and more courses being offered at BBC, but these ideas are unclear and unattainable. Linton’s ability to execute such an aggressive platform seems doubtful. Both McClendon and Linton’s platform is weak and unrealistic. Apart from the ideas that almost all of the candidates have in common (24-hour library, Bright Futures and fighting against tuition increases) he also proposes to create more quiet study areas near the library for campus events, increase fund ing for clubs and subscribe to an online service that would allow songs and movies to be downloaded legally. Although the online downloading service is feasible and would be pleasing for students, The Beacon recommends what Jean-Baptiste has plans to beautify the BBC campus – relatively low cost ideas that would serve engineering students well.

No candidate is recommended for this position. Not only did Casey fail to answer any question adequately, but the candidates who are recommended did not participate in the interview process but the answers to the questions that we asked are not apt to achieve a recommendation for these candidates. Each of their platforms has neglected to satisfy the needs of SGA students and many of their ideas focused on the goals that Cabrera mentioned. Linton expressed a desire to create a new “productive culture” and despite the question that these services would actually be beneficial and has many questions to this conclusion as to how this could be accomplished. Linton’s platform promises increased unity between UB and BBC, more services and more courses being offered at BBC, but these ideas are unclear and unattainable. Linton’s ability to execute such an aggressive platform seems doubtful. Both McClendon and Linton’s platform is weak and unrealistic. Apart from the ideas that almost all of the candidates have in common (24-hour library, Bright Futures and fighting against tuition increases) he also proposes to create more quiet study areas near the library for campus events, increase funding for clubs and subscribe to an online service that would allow songs and movies to be downloaded legally. Although the online downloading service is feasible and would be pleasing for students, The Beacon recommends what Jean-Baptiste has plans to beautify the BBC campus – relatively low cost ideas that would serve engineering students well.

No candidate is recommended for this position. Not only did Casey fail to answer any question adequately, but the candidates who are recommended did not participate in the interview process but the answers to the questions that we asked are not apt to achieve a recommendation for these candidates. Each of their platforms has neglected to satisfy the needs of SGA students and many of their ideas focused on the goals that Cabrera mentioned. Linton expressed a desire to create a new “productive culture” and despite the question that these services would actually be beneficial and has many questions to this conclusion as to how this could be accomplished. Linton’s platform promises increased unity between UB and BBC, more services and more courses being offered at BBC, but these ideas are unclear and unattainable. Linton’s ability to execute such an aggressive platform seems doubtful. Both McClendon and Linton’s platform is weak and unrealistic. Apart from the ideas that almost all of the candidates have in common (24-hour library, Bright Futures and fighting against tuition increases) he also proposes to create more quiet study areas near the library for campus events, increase funding for clubs and subscribe to an online service that would allow songs and movies to be downloaded legally. Although the online downloading service is feasible and would be pleasing for students, The Beacon recommends what Jean-Baptiste has plans to beautify the BBC campus – relatively low cost ideas that would serve engineering students well.

No candidate is recommended for this position. Not only did Casey fail to answer any question adequately, but the candidates who are recommended did not participate in the interview process but the answers to the questions that we asked are not apt to achieve a recommendation for these candidates. Each of their platforms has neglected to satisfy the needs of SGA students and many of their ideas focused on the goals that Cabrera mentioned. Linton expressed a desire to create a new “productive culture” and despite the question that these services would actually be beneficial and has many questions to this conclusion as to how this could be accomplished. Linton’s platform promises increased unity between UB and BBC, more services and more courses being offered at BBC, but these ideas are unclear and unattainable. Linton’s ability to execute such an aggressive platform seems doubtful. Both McClendon and Linton’s platform is weak and unrealistic. Apart from the ideas that almost all of the candidates have in common (24-hour library, Bright Futures and fighting against tuition increases) he also proposes to create more quiet study areas near the library for campus events, increase funding for clubs and subscribe to an online service that would allow songs and movies to be downloaded legally. Although the online downloading service is feasible and would be pleasing for students, The Beacon recommends what Jean-Baptiste has plans to beautify the BBC campus – relatively low cost ideas that would serve engineering students well.

No candidate is recommended for this position. Not only did Casey fail to answer any question adequately, but the candidates who are recommended did not participate in the interview process but the answers to the questions that we asked are not apt to achieve a recommendation for these candidates. Each of their platforms has neglected to satisfy the needs of SGA students and many of their ideas focused on the goals that Cabrera mentioned. Linton expressed a desire to create a new “productive culture” and despite the question that these services would actually be beneficial and has many questions to this conclusion as to how this could be accomplished. Linton’s platform promises increased unity between UB and BBC, more services and more courses being offered at BBC, but these ideas are unclear and unattainable. Linton’s ability to execute such an aggressive platform seems doubtful. Both McClendon and Linton’s platform is weak and unrealistic. Apart from the ideas that almost all of the candidates have in common (24-hour library, Bright Futures and fighting against tuition increases) he also proposes to create more quiet study areas near the library for campus events, increase funding for clubs and subscribe to an online service that would allow songs and movies to be downloaded legally. Although the online downloading service is feasible and would be pleasing for students, The Beacon recommends what Jean-Baptiste has plans to beautify the BBC campus – relatively low cost ideas that would serve engineering students well.

No candidate is recommended for this position. Not only did Casey fail to answer any question adequately, but the candidates who are recommended did not participate in the interview process but the answers to the questions that we asked are not apt to achieve a recommendation for these candidates. Each of their platforms has neglected to satisfy the needs of SGA students and many of their ideas focused on the goals that Cabrera mentioned. Linton expressed a desire to create a new “productive culture” and despite the question that these services would actually be beneficial and has many questions to this conclusion as to how this could be accomplished. Linton’s platform promises increased unity between UB and BBC, more services and more courses being offered at BBC, but these ideas are unclear and unattainable. Linton’s ability to execute such an aggressive platform seems doubtful. Both McClendon and Linton’s platform is weak and unrealistic. Apart from the ideas that almost all of the candidates have in common (24-hour library, Bright Futures and fighting against tuition increases) he also proposes to create more quiet study areas near the library for campus events, increase funding for clubs and subscribe to an online service that would allow songs and movies to be downloaded legally. Although the online downloading service is feasible and would be pleasing for students, The Beacon recommends what Jean-Baptiste has plans to beautify the BBC campus – relatively low cost ideas that would serve engineering students well.

No candidate is recommended for this position. Not only did Casey fail to answer any question adequately, but the candidates who are recommended did not participate in the interview process but the answers to the questions that we asked are not apt to achieve a recommendation for these candidates. Each of their platforms has neglected to satisfy the needs of SGA students and many of their ideas focused on the goals that Cabrera mentioned. Linton expressed a desire to create a new “productive culture” and despite the question that these services would actually be beneficial and has many questions to this conclusion as to how this could be accomplished. Linton’s platform promises increased unity between UB and BBC, more services and more courses being offered at BBC, but these ideas are unclear and unattainable. Linton’s ability to execute such an aggressive platform seems doubtful. Both McClendon and Linton’s platform is weak and unrealistic. Apart from the ideas that almost all of the candidates have in common (24-hour library, Bright Futures and fighting against tuition increases) he also proposes to create more quiet study areas near the library for campus events, increase funding for clubs and subscribe to an online service that would allow songs and movies to be downloaded legally. Although the online downloading service is feasible and would be pleasing for students, The Beacon recommends what Jean-Baptiste has plans to beautify the BBC campus – relatively low cost ideas that would serve engineering students well.

No candidate is recommended for this position. Not only did Casey fail to answer any question adequately, but the candidates who are recommended did not participate in the interview process but the answers to the questions that we asked are not apt to achieve a recommendation for these candidates. Each of their platforms has neglected to satisfy the needs of SGA students and many of their ideas focused on the goals that Cabrera mentioned. Linton expressed a desire to create a new “productive culture” and despite the question that these services would actually be beneficial and has many questions to this conclusion as to how this could be accomplished. Linton’s platform promises increased unity between UB and BBC, more services and more courses being offered at BBC, but these ideas are unclear and unattainable. Linton’s ability to execute such an aggressive platform seems doubtful. Both McClendon and Linton’s platform is weak and unrealistic. Apart from the ideas that almost all of the candidates have in common (24-hour library, Bright Futures and fighting against tuition increases) he also proposes to create more quiet study areas near the library for campus events, increase funding for clubs and subscribe to an online service that would allow songs and movies to be downloaded legally. Although the online downloading service is feasible and would be pleasing for students, The Beacon recommends what Jean-Baptiste has plans to beautify the BBC campus – relatively low cost ideas that would serve engineering students well.
“Hair: The Musical” gives new light to anti-war and religious topics

By BETSY MARTINEZ
Assistant Life! Editor

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 flamboyancy, 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.

The show includes such memorable characters as Claude (senior Aaron Millis) and Woof (Jonathan Gonzalez), who epitomize the ‘60s hippie teachings on war, theology, authority and sex.

The musical, written by Gerome Ragni, James Rado and Galt MacDermot, is directed by FIU professor of acting and theater movement, Wayne E. Robinson, Jr.

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

This story of love and war comes at a momentous time in our society, because like the youth of the ’60s young Americans today are becoming more aware of the issues that concern them.

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 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 Jeanie (senior Minette Perez) who is always protesting about something, and together with several other characters, they sum up the hippy days of the ’60s.

“Jeanie is the mom of the group. Her whole deal is love, and everything she does is to that extreme,” said Perez, who is so passionate about her character that she has been growing the hair on her armpits and legs since Christmas break.

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. General admission is $12 but with FIU ID, the cost is $10.

For more information contact the FIU box office at (305) 348-3789.
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,” 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 perfect 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.

“This club offers club goers three rooms in which different styles of music are played to satisfy everyone’s taste in music,” Contributing Writer Greicy Carvajal, Sophomore.

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?
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 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 Lorraine de la Pe

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 the importance of oral history in women’s studies.

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 Rebecca 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 northerncan.com and cowcow.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 on diseases that affect 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.

“I’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 Florida 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.

WALL OF FAME: Student-made presentations ranging from features on faculty to a history of the women’s studies program were displayed around the GC ballroom.

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.
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 City 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, 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 during the man’s final hours, stating that the universal grief was “a testimony to his greatness.”

John Paul II was born Karol Joseph Wojtyla in 1920 in the town of Wadowice, Poland to a former army officer and a schoolteacher.

During the Nazi occupation of Poland, Wojtyla studied poetry, philosophy and theology in secret, hoping to one day become a priest.

His ordination took place in 1946, the same time the Iron Curtain fell across Eastern Europe and communism became the main 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 youngest 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 communists ruled countries during the Cold War. These trips are credited with helping to bring about the fall of the Iron Curtain.

“Fifty percent of the collapse of communism is his doing,” Lech Walesa, founder of the Polish Solidarity Movement that toppled communism between 1989 and 90, told the World Press Friday.

An assassination attempt in 1981 by a Turkish radical was at first said to be done on orders from the Kremlin, but these accusations have not been proven. The Pope forgave the assassin after his recovery.

Despite taking such liberal actions as issuing 16th-century astronomer Galileo Galilei an official 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.

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

COURTESY PHOTO

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 City officials announced that Pope John Paul II, leader of the Roman Catholic Church for the past 26 years, had been weak and unable to speak since last Easter Sunday.**

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, 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 during the man’s final hours, stating that the universal grief was “a testimony to his greatness.”

John Paul II was born Karol Joseph Wojtyla in 1920 in the town of Wadowice, Poland to a former army officer and a schoolteacher.

During the Nazi occupation of Poland, Wojtyla studied poetry, philosophy and theology in secret, hoping to one day become a priest.

His ordination took place in 1946, the same time the Iron Curtain fell across Eastern Europe and communism became the main 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 youngest 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 communists ruled countries during the Cold War. These trips are credited with helping to bring about the fall of the Iron Curtain.

“Fifty percent of the collapse of communism is his doing,” Lech Walesa, founder of the Polish Solidarity Movement that toppled communism between 1989 and 90, told the World Press Friday.

An assassination attempt in 1981 by a Turkish radical was at first said to be done on orders from the Kremlin, but these accusations have not been proven. The Pope forgave the assassin after his recovery.

Despite taking such liberal actions as issuing 16th-century astronomer Galileo Galilei an official church apology in 1992 and attending a Jewish service in Israel (the only pope to have ever done so), John Paul II was also decided 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.

**A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS:** The world mourns Pope John Paul II’s death and awaits any news of his successor.
Lineup and defense make Marlins a threat

GONZALEZ, from page 12

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 Marlin's 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 25th in pitching. How'd they win? Defense! The Marlin's 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 Marlin's 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 adding 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 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.

The Marlin's lineup is intimidating to start ordering the bubbly for the post-season celebrations.

The Marlin's pitching rotation is solid from top to bottom. Our one and two hitters, Pierre and Castillo, are the fastest and arguably the most productive in the game. Even our eighth batter, Gonzalez, can hit his 20 homeruns when it's all said and done.

We all know that pitching is a key in winning a title. So even with the loss of Cy Young Award candidate Carl Pavano, the Marlin's pitching rotation is solided from one through five.

With promising young pitchers Josh Beckett, A.J. Burnett and Dontrelle Willis, round out by veterans Al Leiter and Ismael Valdez, nobody is going to want to face these guys on any given night.

Our bullpen is arguably the best it has ever been. Thanks to Antonio Alfonseca, Todd Jones, Guillermo Mota and Tim Spooner-Burgar, we have four pitchers that can potentially be closers. Add them to with veteran long relievers Matt Perisho and Jim Meir, and the bullpen seems to pose no problems.

I believe every aspect of this Marlin's team is perfect. Our lineup has a deadly combination of speed and power. Our defense is still one of the best in the game, and our pitching can hold up against any team in the National League.

Still the desperate Braves are the favorites to win their respective division. But that's OK, we sort of like it that way. We are the true underdogs of Major League Baseball, and because of the overemphasis on Spring Training. This image will probably never change.

Marlins still have many question marks

OREKHOV, from page 12

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.

Beckett 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 breaks 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 Marlin's 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 Marlin's 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 Marlin's will improve their play come the regular season, and that there is nothing to worry about.

Well, hopefully those optimistic fans who are surely overwhelmed by the team's recent spending spree and the team's pre-season playoff hopes - are correct.

It is not practice that makes perfect, but rather perfect practice that makes perfect. And the Marlin's are lacking that, as they have not shown anything to be correct.

It is not practice that makes perfect, but rather perfect practice that makes perfect. And the Marlin's are lacking that, as they have not shown anything to be correct.

It is not practice that makes perfect, but rather perfect practice that makes perfect. And the Marlin's are lacking that, as they have not shown anything to be correct.
Sprinter hopes to go professional after FIU

RUN THAT TRACK: Brooks is hoping to shave milliseconds off her time in order to pursue a pro career after graduation. GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON

I don’t think we should be taking steroids and [other performance enhancers]. 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 magical 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 another way, because if you win a European 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.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Seeking part-time Admin Assistant to support Executive Assistant in Homestead. Must have: ability to handle multi tasks concurrently, good communication skills, strong computer skills, attention to detail. Duties to include filing, preparing correspondence, scheduling travel arrangements, making phone calls, and other duties as necessary. To be considered for this position, please email resume to MarcelaE@tropicsnorth.net

SWIMMING TEACHERS, LIFEGUARDS, OFFICE ASSISTANTS: P/T, F/T. Responsible and enthusiastic people needed to teach swimming to children or work in a busy swim school office throughout the summer. Locations at the UM Wellness Center, Gulliver Academy, Coral Gables Country Club and Big Five Club. Current CPR required for pool staff. Priority will be given to experienced swimming instructors with WSI certification. Positions open as early as March 21st. $7 - $10/ hour. Call Ocaquatics Swim School to 305-436-1979 or e-mail Leoclavel@hotmail.com

Motivated? Sales account manager needed. Opportunity to be apart of a fast growing real estate investment company where you will learn the essentials of contract negotiation. Vibrant, casual working environment where self motivation equals great reward. VERY flexible hours. Phenomenal earnings potential!! We have several college students earning $1000 - $1500 per week working 30 hours. We will train. Some sales experience a plus. Fax resume to 305-436-1979 or e-mail Leoclavel@hotmail.com

Don’t just show them the path. Be the map.

Set the pace. Help navigate a complex and changing world. Guide troubled teens toward a bright new horizon. And learn for yourself why life’s best lessons come from the heart.

• Youth Counselors, Outdoor Therapeutic Treatment Program
• Teachers, Experiential & Traditional Learning Programs
• Human Services Opportunities, Residential & Community-Based Youth Programs

Choose the road less taken with a career path unlike any other. Chart the way with Eckerd Youth Alternatives. Experience the adventure and apply online now.

www.eckerdyouth.org Fax: 727-442-5911

Make more than a living. Make a difference.
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 her home-cooked meals and would never take a shortcut to reach the top of her game.

But despite her prowess on the track, this Manchester, Jamaica native misses her family. "I'm used to my real rice and chicken. [Also], people's approach to things here is different in Jamaica. Back home I'm straight up with you and [they] say what they have to say. Here, people tend to be two-faced."

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?

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

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.

Q: What is the biggest difference between 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?

I think it’s more fun in Jamaica, probably, because all my family is there. Back 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 different in Jamaica. People are straight up with you and [they] say what they have to say. Here, people tend to be two-faced.

By ALDEN GONZALEZ
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.

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.

By NIKOLOY OREKHOV
Staff Writer

The Marlins Spring performance shows signs of trouble.

Let’s get one thing out of the way: Spring Training is completely insignificant. 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 to the top of the spring season, especially after the IRS’ decision to give Barry Bonds back his 2001 baseball salary.

Training seriously, then we would take into account that Gabe Gross (who?!), reserve outfielder for the Toronto Blue Jays, has held eight homerruns in just 24 games.

If he keeps this pace into the regular season, he will finish off the year with 55 homerruns. That would be more than Sammy Sosa, Adrian Beltre, Troy Glaus, Manny Ramirez and everybody else.

There he is ladies and gentleman – 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.

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 her home-cooked meals and would never take a shortcut to reach the top of her game.

But despite her prowess on the track, this Manchester, Jamaica native misses her family. "I’m used to my real rice and chicken. [Also], people’s approach to things here is different in Jamaica. Back home I’m straight up with you and [they] say what they have to say. Here, people tend to be two-faced."

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

For me, I’m tall, so there’s a disadvantage in the 100, because in the 60-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...