4-14-2005

The Beacon, April 14, 2005

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FIU receives grant to train future intelligence analysts

By ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

The early part of this month marked a dramatic change in FIU’s image nationwide.

On March 10, FIU received a grant from the federal government worth over $750,000 for an 18-month pilot program to train future intelligence analysts.

The United States Intelligence Community, which is made up of a consortium of 14 agencies that include the CIA, FBI and Department of Homeland Security, gave the grant to the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Policy and Citizenship studies at FIU’s Center for Transnational and Comparative Studies.

According to Caryn A. Wagner, executive director for the U.S. Intelligence Community Affairs Office in Washington, D.C., the program is part of a legislative initiative to diversify the ranks of intelligence analysts.

Five schools were awarded money throughout the country. The other four were the Georgia Institute of Technology, Clark-Atlanta University, Tennessee State University and Trinity College in Washington, D.C.

Georgia Tech and Clark-Atlanta are participating under the same grant.

Classes will be open to any interested FIU student and could be compared to programs such as ROTC or security studies – two programs already available on campus.

Initially the programs will offer only a certificate, but the goal is to develop a graduate degree.

After the 18-month pilot program draws to a close, the consortium may choose to renew the grant for over four years, which would award the university up to $3 million.

FIU’s Provost and Vice President, Mark B. Rosenberg stated that the university has shown that it can compete nationwide for federal resources.

“We have shown we can compete nationally for resources that ultimately enhance the value we provide the nation, the state and the community,” he said.

Rosenberg added that the new initiative will also provide many scholarships which will be competitively awarded to students who apply and meet the minimum standards.

Students could use the scholarships to pursue the advanced study of languages as well as other academic training.

“We have a strong track record of educating students for public service in fields such as nursing, education, public health and the military,” Rosenberg said. “The Center for Academic Excellence Program will extend this to the national security professions.”

Ralph Clem, director for the Center for Transnational and Comparative Studies and an international relations professor, acknowledged that the classes proposed by the program were not very different from those already offered at the university.

“It’s subjects and skills [are those] such as political science, geography, statistical analysis and foreign languages. The program would coordinate all these subjects and add others to produce graduates who are competitive for jobs in Washington, D.C.,” he said.

Students learn anatomy by dissecting human corpses

By C. JOEL MARINO
Senior Staff Writer

The two corpses lie on metal gurneys at the end of the room, both half-covered and in blue body bags. Their skin is leathery and peeled back, revealing the dried remains of sinews, organs and bones. One face is partially concealed. The other face is in plain sight, its eyes milky white, the mouth gaping wide and twisted slightly to the side.

Stored in a Health Life Sciences classroom at the University Park campus, the bodies are probed each week by students of various majors who take part in ZOO 3731L, the human anatomy course for the Biological Sciences Department.

“Yes, we do use cadavers, and students get to interact with them,” said Ferdinand Gomez, coordinator for the anatomy demonstration labs. “It’s a very hands-on type of class.”

According to Gomez, the department has been using donated bodies since the mid-1980s. FIU is one of the few universities in the state to allow undergraduate students to use cadavers.

The University of Miami’s School of Medicine supplies the dried and preserved corpses, which are a part of a donor program approved by the Florida Anatomical Board.

Florida Funeral Homes deliver the bodies to FIU at a cost of $1,000 each. The funds for the bodies come from student lab fees and funds from the College of Arts and Sciences.

“All the work is taken care of before the specimens arrive,” Gomez said. “All we have to do is perform maintenance by spraying them with preserving fluid. The students take care of that, and it helps prevent mold or excessive drying.”

See ANATOMY, page 2
Morgue rumor scares students

ANATOMY, from page 1

Though the lab once made use of 10 to 12 bodies per semester, Gomez says the classes now make do with only two to five bodies per calendar year, because requirements for biology changed and various specimens were no longer needed.

“The [human anatomy and survey of regional anatomy] classes that use the cadavers share [the bodies], and they last throughout the year,” said Gomez.

The fact that there are corpses on campus—however, few—has made students nervous.

“I’ve always heard that there was a morgue at UP and that they kept frozen bodies,” said junior Dan Streiden. “I don’t know if that’s just a rumor or not, but if they do have a morgue, that can’t possibly be sanitary.”

Gomez believes the rumors are fueled by misunderstandings among students and by campus gossip.

“There are probably many misconceptions about what goes on in here,” said Gomez. “This isn’t like an autopsy room where the bodies are still fresh. The specimens have been embalmed beforehand and don’t even look real anymore.”

Students who are currently taking the class admit that they too were initially scared by the prospect of handling corpses.

“Before I got into the class, I knew that this was going to be very different from anything I was used to,” said senior Adam Leisy, who is majoring in biology. “I had dissected cats before, but a human corpse was a totally new ballgame.”

Though students are told that the class will involve interaction with corpses before signing up, some still felt nervous about what they would encounter.

“Before I saw the body, I was freaked out. I had images of horror movies in my head and didn’t know what to expect,” said Brenda Piantini, a sophomore in nursing.

However, the students stated that after a semester of working with the bodies, all negative reactions faded, and they became comfortable with the idea of handling human remains.

“I think at this point in the semester, our class, including myself, [has] become a little more desensitized to the fact that we are working on human bodies. There isn’t the same hesitation that I noticed before, and people are more casual around them,” said Leisy, who nicknamed one of the subjects “Apollo.”

Though most of the students in the class are studying science or medicine related fields, Gomez encourages students from all majors to take part in the course if they are interested in enhancing their learning experience.

“We are all essentially made of the same things—skin, muscle, organs, bones. This class shows us this and how we can appreciate what we’re made of and who we are as people,” he said.

For information on the course, students can visit the website at www.fiu.edu/~gomez.

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**“SWEET!”**

“NAPOLEON DYNAMITE” BREAKS THE TEND
t

“IDIOT”: Deb (Tina Majorino) and Napoleon (Jon Heder) dance the night away. COURTESY PHOTO

**WINNER & LOSER**

**WINNER**

Snitches: Model High School in Rome, Ga. is rewarding students who give school administrators information on thefts and/or gun or drug possession on campus with monetary payments. The highest reward offered is $100 for information on gun possession. Being a snitch is now a lucrative career.

**LOSER**

25 left feet: After stealing a case filled with what he or she believed to be complete pairs of shoes, a Norwegain burglar soon discovered that he or she was in possession of 25 left shoes and no right ones. The burglar then spent two hours haggling for 50 percent off of Dr. Scholl's insoles.

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By CRISTELA GUERRA
Staff Writer

“What are you going to do today, Napoleon?”

“Whatever I feel like doing! Gosh!”

It seems that our generation has a new role model to live up to. No, he isn’t a politician or a model (I don’t know how many would want to look like him), but the majority of those who have seen the movie “Napoleon Dynamite” will tell you it’s become a new fad among trendsetters “to do what Napoleon does.”

As a housing resident and FIU student it’s hard to even walk to class without hearing someone say “Gosh!” or “Idiot,” two of the movie’s popular catch phrases. What is ironic, however, is that this small-budget indie film is one of cleanest “teen movies” that’s come out in a decade. Why is that sex, beer and sick humor need to make up the majority of our generation’s films?

Some say movies imitate reality, but often it seems that society is just imitating the movies. Movies look for more sensational ways of giving people what they want, such as shocking them with a crude one-line quote or a quick flash of nudity, and it suffices for the moment. But as shown by Napoleon Dynamite himself, it’s possible to have a complete pointless plot and still keep a smidgen of modesty in the process.

“Napoleon Dynamite” is in many ways the complete antithesis of most everyday teen films. Whether it be classes like “Road Trip” or it’s more recent clone “EuroTrip”, each of these films consist of the same plot in which the whole storyline revolves around a certain girl the protagonist is head over heals for. Like a fairy tale gone badly, “prince charming” has to climb over mountains and through forests to reach the perfect woman. “Napoleon Dynamite” on the other hand is running out of ideas to stimulate minds.

Instead they are counting on our voracious, insatiable hunger for bigger laughs and our increasing lack of self-control. Slowly but surely from the amount of nudity, sex and violence to parodies of drug use and sexual immorality – it has all been done.

Thus, it intrigued me that, for once, although its plot is a bit erratic, a film like “Napoleon Dynamite” came out and is just plain funny. The movie stars a tall, goofy fro-headed guy named Napoleon Dynamite who has a “different” way of looking at the world.

Some scenes seem to be put in solely for a comedic effect, while others are so random, viewers might wonder what the point was. Napoleon’s friend Pedro, dorky brother Kip, eccentric football-obsessed Unde Rico, as well as quiet little town girl Deb (a long shot from the usual “girls gone wild” ladies we normally see) bring laughs while still keeping their clothes on. This multitude of unique and weird characters make this film fun, and the box office and DVD sales prove that, in this case, sex doesn’t have to be prevalent to sell a movie. So then why does it seem so necessary to motivate young adults from 18-25 to view movies by including these bare necessities? Perhaps the movie is trying to capture a person’s daily life? No. Neither does “Napoleon Dynamite” … but at least it doesn’t praise some of the worst necessities.

After the success of the previous movie, the creators of “Napoleon Dynamite” – including lawyer and co-writer Larry Charles, and co-actors Jon Heder, and Efren Ramirez – have left their small town of Rexburg, Idaho and moved to Los Angeles to continue working on more movies. The future is bright for these guys... or should I say “girls”.
EMBRACE...the banality

BRITISH BAND’S STYLE, NOTHING NEW TO THE U.S.

By JESSICA ISER
Opinion Editor

I’m a fan of British rock. From The Beatles to The Smiths, Oasis, Muse and even Coldplay – I love it all. That’s why I was surprised to realize that I don’t particularly like Embrace.

The British quintet consists of brothers Danny McNamara and Richard McNamara on lead vocals and lead guitar respectively. Steve Firth on bass, Mick Heaton on drums. The group came together at the height of British pop in the mid-90s and has since come out of nowhere with their latest effort.

Out of Nothing

Embrace’s sound on their newest album Out of Nothing can be compared to similar Brit-pop icon, Coldplay. Coldplay frontman Chris Martin is a guest lyricist on the song “Gravity.”

Nothing includes orchestral arrangements; 2005.

Almost every song on Out of Nothing reminded me of another famous British rock band’s work – Coldplay’s. This is no surprise because Coldplay’s frontman Chris Martin actually wrote the lyrics to the song “Gravity,” the second track on the album. Even though Martin is only credited with writing that one song, his influence can be heard everywhere on the album.

There is no real high point on Out of Nothing. The song “Ashes,” a lukewarm rock anthem, starts off the album. Once the song’s chorus kicks in and the choir (yes, choir) starts singing, it’s just about as much cheesiness as I can take. But I forgave on thinking that the rest of the album couldn’t be as sappy.

I was wrong. Every track on the album sounds like the last. Almost every song on Out of Nothing includes orchestral arrangements, power chords and sappy sounding lyrics that, when listened to closely, don’t make much sense. The only song that truly stands out on the album is “Near Life.” The only reason it stands out is because this track is uncharacteristically bleak and dark, a departure from the overall optimistic tone the album has.

Danny McNamara’s voice switches from emotional to apathetic for “Near Life,” and off-beat, echoing guitar riffs give the song, and album, a much-needed change in tone.

All in all, I felt the change came too late. Out of Nothing lacked variety, character and originality.

By JARROD MILLER-DEAN
Staff Writer

For all of those club-heads who hunger for the dirry southern sound, Ms. Kra-Z just might satisfy your needs. Her latest single, “Cut Em’ Down,” has been receiving massive radio airplay and has been tearing up clubs from Memphis to Houston.

“Cut Em’ Down” is the newest single from Ms. Kra-Z’s debut album, Lyrically Insane (Setting the Pace Productions; 2005).

The single begins similar to the average southern club track, with its three-chord, multi-layered sequence and heavy bass line. It can easily be ignored and classified as “the same old thing,” if not for a bouncing spring in the background. The sound draws the ear closer to the song.

Played on a home stereo, you find yourself deciphering the beat more than listening to the lyrics of the track.

In the hip-hop industry, female rappers are often considered insignificant. They usually have to use their physical attributes to get noticed, as opposed to using their lyrics. A phat butt and a pretty face can only get you so far. Lil’ Kim found that out the hard way. She originally came out as a real contender, but the jet-set life of being a celebrity has jaded her.

What makes Ms. Kra-Z interesting is her unapologetic hard rhymes. They are not complex by any means, but are edgy in their delivery. She comes off tougher than the average female rapper.

Instead of making a sexually exploitative track like artists such as Trina or Jackie-O, Ms. Kra-Z spits in the mic that she will shut down any and all of those that oppose her.

“Any Chicken that get in the way of this queen/ gonna get her ass thrown straight into the ring/ in the first round the strangest things start happenin’”

“Cut Em’ Down,” also features Fiend, who is known for releasing slews of CDs, including 2000 ‘s, Can I Burn? and his side project with the 36 Mafia known as Da’ HeadBussaz.

Though he doesn’t bring anything special to the song, because he sounds like a generic hype-man, he works well for the hook.

You can envision him running around on the stage, spill-ing his cup of Hennessey and preparing to get crunked.

See KRA-Z, page 5.
Female rapper not just a novelty

KRA-Z, from page 4

yelling at fans to get wild.

“Your think your click big? We gonna cut em’ down.”

Originally born in Memphis, TN, Ms. Kra-Z got her first taste of hip-hop from the 901 Thugs. Ms. Kra-Z recently scored her own solo deal with the Memphis-based record label, Setting the Pace Productions.

The small label features Ms. Kra-Z and the unknown, Dormus. Though still experienced, the label promises to make a name for itself in southern rap.

It is uncertain if Ms. Kra-Z will rise above mediocrity. In a scene where artists like UKG, Little Johns, B-8all and MIJ rule as kings, for a new artist to get any notoriety, they need to bring something new to the table.

If she stays sharp, she may just make it.

While still being considered “young” to the game, Ms. Kra-Z has a tough female rapper. She needs to embrace and develop it, otherwise she will be pawed off as just another “novelty female rap act.”

Ms. Kra-Z may not be able to rhyme like Foxy Brown or Remy Martin, but with a little work, she could pick up where 36 Mafia’s Gangsta’ Boo left off.

Joseph R. Lopez, Coordinator for Keyboard Studies

We hope it’s not the only concert because there are a lot of women composers out there that need to be heard.

Female counterparts

Franz Liszt, as well as the contemporaries of living performers like Valerie Capers, who overcame various obstacles as a blind African-American composer, were noted in the concert.

The program’s variety and focus on women, was of great importance to Jose R. Lopez, coordinator for keyboard studies.

“It is important to showcase composers that should be known,” said Lopez, noting that often the influence these women may have exerted on their male counterparts continues to be overlooked.

Lopez was the opportunity to choose the compositions and transcriptions for the concert’s performances accordingly. Composition, speed of the pieces and contrast between style were among the top interests cited by Lopez in his decision process.

“We hope it’s not the only concert, because there are a lot of women composers out there that need to be heard,” Lopez said.

In listening to the work of Maria Anna von Martinez, who actually shared a piano bench and keyboard with Mozart, the link to the 18th century was obvious. With its classical upbeat notes, Martinez’s work certainly contains the influence of Mozart, but through their constant interaction, the possibility of influence flowing in both directions is certainly a strong one.

In addition to the sharp, quick-paced sounds of the classical era, students performed pieces by women of the Romantic Era such as Clara Wieck Schumann, a woman known as much for her incredible musical talents as for her courtroom struggles to overcome her father’s disapproval of marrying composer Robert Schumann.

Wieck’s work, often laced with secret messages to Schumann, is representative of the era with its emotional, almost melancholic undercurrents. Audience members were captivated by the piano to create different sounds, said Heledys Rodriguez, a graduate student majoring in production management. It was certainly a surprising spectacle as pianists Daniel Carrascal and Danica Borisavljevic alternated between running their hands over the keyboard and reaching into the cage of the piano. The concert ended with the work of Fanny Mendelssohn, whose early lieders were published under her brother’s name due to the ideologies of women being kept within the home’s private realm.

The dramatic tone of her work, “Das Jahr: November,” brought the audience through the dark, but ultimately triumphant musical notes of her piece. The audience murmured its approval with a moment of silence after the final applause of the night.

The spirits of great pianists and composers, primarily women of the 18th to 20th centuries, were brought to life.

Jose R. Lopez, Coordinator for Keyboard Studies
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South Alabama beats FIU in extra innings

BASEBALL, from page 8

Starting pitcher Ammer Cabrera struggled early and was replaced by Gonzalez after he pitched only one and two-three innings of work and allowed runs (two earned).

Gonzalez pitched a career-high seven and one-three innings, allowed two unearned runs, struck out three batters and walked none for the no-decision.

Hernandez (1-4) received his second loss of the weekend as he pitched one and three-three innings, allowed four runs (three earned), one hit, walked one, hit two batters and struck out one.

The Golden Panthers came back from a 4-0 deficit and took the lead after they scored one run in the fourth, two runs in the fifth and three runs in the sixth.

South Alabama tied the game at six after a runner who reached base following a throwing error by Gonzalez came around to score on a sac fly.

The very next batter hit a homerun to left field.

The game went into extra innings after being tied after nine. It wasn’t until the eleventh that a team struck again. South Alabama struck hard as it took three FIU pitchers to get out of the Jaguars’ six-run inning.

Freshman Corey Lozano hit a home run in the bottom of the eleventh to make the final score 12-7.

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10:30 a.m.
College of Arts and Sciences
3:00 p.m.
School of Journalism and Mass Communication
College of Health and Urban Affairs
Tuesday, May 3, 2005
10:30 a.m.
School of Architecture
College of Engineering
College of Education
3:00 p.m.
College of Business Administration - All undergraduate Candidates. EXCEPT School of Accounting
7:30 p.m.
School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
College of Business Administration:
• School of Accounting
• Chapman Graduate School
• All Business Majors and Doctoral Candidates

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Academic regalia is required for participation in the ceremony. Purchase your cap and gowns on or before April 15, 2005 at either of the FIU Bookstores.

Candidates and guests who require special assistance should contact the Office of Disability Services at 305-899-3532.

Family and friends who cannot be present at the commencement ceremony can view the celebration live over the Internet by going to www.fiu.edu/wharf/live/cm. This link is only available during the ceremony.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call the commencement hotline at 305-899-3566 or visit the website at www.fiu.edu/ors/commencement
Baseball loses two of three to South Alabama

By XAVIER VILLARMARZO
Sports Editor

After an 18-5 rout at the hands of FAU, a game in which FAU scored 16 runs in the second inning, the Golden Panthers continued their mediocre conference play, losing two of three games to the University of South Alabama, April 8-10 at the Baseball Stadium at University Park.

I was real pleased with the effort this series," said Head Coach Danny Price. "We just didn't have a long way to go."

Villanueva (6-2) got the victory, almost going the distance, as he pitched eight and two-thirds innings, allowing four runs, walking two batters and striking out seven.

"I struggled my last two times out," said Villanueva. "But I made a couple of adjustments and I felt good today. We have a long way to go."