Students create housing recycling program

GRACE TAYLOR
Contributing Writer

Students involved in the University Park Recycling Committee are trying to implement a paper recycling program across the UP residence halls.

Angelia Troff, who is majoring in economics and is the committee’s chair, wrote a proposal to James Wassenaar, executive director of Student Affairs Operations and Auxiliary Services, to start the recycling program at FIU.

She submitted the plan to the committee, and it was approved.

The proposal consisted of what could be done in the plan and how much it would cost.

During the Fall 2005 semester, a pilot program was finally established.

Honors Place, a segment of Panther Hall reserved specifically for Honors students, was given the opportunity to test out the program.

According to Troff, the plan took off when Jost “Joe” Nuniga, superintendent of Recycling and Waste Unit at University Park, said his staff could pick up the housing recycling for free.

He was able to provide small bins for each room in the residence hall and two 95 gallon bins for the trash chutes.

Campus-wide recycling consists of the placement of small bins in offices on campus.

People are responsible for dumping the paper from small bins to the medium-sized bins located in their respective halls.

Then, in-house recycling staff dump the paper from the medium-sized bins to the large recycling bins and take those bins to the compound behind the Campus Services Complex.

According to Nuniga, the recycling staff leave two empty bins at the loading zone and there are two to five large bins in every building.

“Aside from housing and the Graham Center [they are responsible for their own recycling], in all buildings we place recycling bins and the offices that provide the most paper are the Green Library, Deuxieme Mason and Primera Casa,” Nuniga said.

Although this provided students with the ability to recycle in Honors Place, there was an issue concerning maintenance of the bins.

Students such as freshman Manuel Singleton, said that his bin had been stolen.

“A lot of times when I went to put the recyclables away, the bins weren’t even around. I didn’t really know when I could drop off the bottles,” Singleton said.

Although this is one scenario, the awareness and participation in the program is evident through students like Singleton.

Since then, the problem has been addressed and students on the committee are working together with the tenant committee to recycle.

Troff hopes that the program will continue to keep an open mind and support recycling.

It’s a new program, but in the end it will prove to be beneficial to students living in the residence halls,” he said.

The recycling committee will be working with the Students for Environmental Action, a student organization on campus, to bring awareness and prepare students for recycling.

GOOD SAMARITAN: Freshman Shirley Arménteros does her share of recycling in Panther Hall. The recycling program in housing started Fall 2005 with a pilot program that has expanded into other housing facilities at University Park.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship to speak on global issues

GEORGE ANDERSON JR.
Staff Writer

During the week of March 6-9, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship will be having several activities and discussions for students to participate in.

They will be having activities from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Betty Chapman Plaza outside of the Graham Center.

Known as Express Yourself, the outreach will focus on two types of issues: social and spiritual.

By making students more aware of issues such as child trafficking and poverty, InterVarsity hopes that the outreach will show students that God cares about the injustices in the world and make people raise questions about those injustices.

“The hope is that it will be a way to engage students not only to grapple with these important issues, but to see them in the light of what God thinks of them,” said InterVarsity member Jonathan Cameron in an e-mail to The Beacon.

Cassie Strauss, another member of InterVarsity, shared similar feelings about the purpose of Express Yourself.

“College students just focus on the immediate issues and barely notice the ongoing social issues affecting the world. We want to bring awareness to students and make them speak up on these issues,” Strauss said.

According to Cameron, three teams are in charge of the outreach.

One team will be focusing on the social aspect of Express Yourself while another team will be focusing on the spiritual aspect. A third team will be hosting an open mic night.

The social aspect of the outreach revolves around global issues such as AIDS and hunger.

Students who stop by the information tables in front of GC Monday and Tuesday will be able to create their own shirts and learn more about the social problems affecting the world.

“At the Global Issues station, we will have free t-shirts, stencils and paint where people can custom design their t-shirts on the spot,” Cameron said.

“The t-shirts will also have a statistic on issues such as hunger, and other facts about injustices in the world.”

The spiritual aspect of Express Yourself takes place on Wednesday and Thursday, and emphasizes the meaning of success.

At the information tables, team members will be asking students what they consider to be the definition of success.

See GLOBAL, page 2
Club outreach to raise awareness

From GLOBAL, page 1
real success
“...For the success group, the main question is ‘What is real success?’” Cameron said. “The hope is to raise questions and discussions about successful people in the world, or in history, and talk about the true meaning of success.”

The culmination of Express Yourself will be an open mic night in the GC Piano Lounge at 7:30 p.m. on March 9. At the open mic event, students are welcome to recite poetry, perform spoken word or just share their opinions on the issues that were discussed throughout the week.

InterVarsity will also be raffling off prizes at the open mic night. “We haven’t decided what prizes will be raffled off yet,” said InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Director Jamie Hunt. The idea for the outreach came about at the start of the semester when InterVarsity decided that doing an outreach would be an ideal way of sharing Jesus Christ with others.

“We knew at the beginning of the semester that we wanted to do an outreach on campus to share the love of Jesus with others.”

“After several brainstorming sessions, we settled on the themes of global issues and success, culminating with an open mic night,” Cameron said.

One of InterVarsity’s main concerns while developing the idea of the outreach was people’s lack of interest in spiritual and societal issues.

“There was originally a question we had of whether people would care enough about injustices in the world, but we eventually decided that even if people might not show little interest, we needed to find a way to make people care,” Cameron said.

In order to promote the outreach, InterVarsity has distributed flyers and will hang banners around GC to inform students of the event.

For future promotions, the organization has not ruled out working with other clubs.

“We look forward to working with other organizations in the future.” Strauss said.
**Wine tasting class popular among students**

**BY ELIZABETH CARAM**
Contributing Writer

Drinking wine in the classroom: It’s not necessarily a dream for senior students over the age of 21 thanks to a class offered by the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. The school offers students three wine courses, where they learn everything from the history of the beverage to career opportunities in the wine business.

And although they get to sample different wines in each class, the classes are not exactly a breeze. With a heavy textbook in one hand and a glass of wine in the other, students rely on "The Wine Bible" by Karen MacNeil, the required text for Wine Technology (HFT 3806), Eastern University’s top wine course.

Professor William Hebrank lectures and students can be seen flipping through their "bibles." During a recent visit to the class, one thing was clear: The class is three hours long and students consider it challenging.

"There’s very little I can do for three hours [straight]," said Lindsay Goldstein, a senior majoring in hotel management who voice records all of the lectures with a nifty connection to her iPod called iTalk, "but the professor makes it fun and interesting."

"It’s a hard class," she said, after she moved her iPod to make sure it was catching everything Hebrank was saying.

The wine classes are wildly popular among the school’s students. Only seniors can get in to the class, and even then some students are left out. The demand does not surprise Hebrank at all.

"Wine is so intriguing and people are looking to understand it," Hebrank said.

"It’s a beautiful, social beverage." He has been teaching wine classes since 1988 and is also a full-time wine expert at every Atlantic Wine, the fine wine division of Southern Wine.

Southern Wine has a partnership with FIU, and all of the wine the students taste is from there. The company, one of the largest wine distributors in Florida, donated the entire building to the school.

There is a wine laboratory equipped with miniature sinks where students can rinse their glasses and a wine cellar filled with a variety of wines.

Hebrank is a wine connoisseur; there is not doubt about that. But he said he learns a lot from his own students.

"Students are always the best teachers," Hebrank said, describing his students’ questions and interests as "always enlightening."

His expertise in the field and his excitement for wine have proven to be contagious for some students.

"Because of this class, I may go into the wine industry," Goldstein said. "It became an option during this class because the professor tells you about all the career opportunities."

Goldstein is also excited to join the working-world because a career in the wine business allows you to travel all over the world. She has already traveled to wineries in Spain, Portugal, Italy, France and Greece.

After tasting so many extraordinary wines across the globe, her favorite is a German white wine called Gewurztraaminer.

She discovered the wine in class and described it as fresh, crisp and fruity, tasting like peaches and lychee.

A lot of other discoveries are also made in the class. Alexander Mihailitchenko, a junior, learned that monks were the ones who preserved the wine culture after the fall of the Roman Empire. They were the only ones who could read and write and thus pass along the information about wine cultivation.

Hebrank raved about wine, using words like "fabulous" and "excellent" while sporting a tie that has images of martini glasses and champagne bottles popping. But one of the most important lessons Hebrank hopes his students learn is that of moderation.

"We teach that at the very beginning of class," he said. Despite the warnings he believes, "It’s the best beverage you can put in your mouth."

**WINE TIME:** Wine Technology, one of the most popular courses offered at the School of Hospitality and Management, has a wine testing room specifically built for the class. The room includes special red and white lights to view the wine and miniature sinks used to cleanse wine glasses after use.

---

** Byrne provost an advocate supporter of campus**

**BY MICHAEL HAINES**
Contributing Writer

The window in Raul Moncarz’s third-floor office provides a picturesque view of the Biscayne Bay Campus, but the location’s top administrator regularly walks the campus to greet students and teachers, and to maintain a feel for the pulse of the campus.

Moncarz became BBC’s vice provost in 1999, coinciding with the renaming of North Campus to Biscayne Bay Campus, what he calls the “crown jewel” of FIU.

“My job is to polish that jewel and maybe get more students to come," he said.

Born in Cuba, Moncarz taught economics before becoming vice provost. He is much focused on Cuban immigration and how Cuban officials adapted to life in the United States. He still tries to teach when he can.

With several projects in the works, Moncarz, who has been at FIU for over 30 years, continues to seek out new programs to improve the school’s community. He said FIU currently has world-class programs in journalism, hospitality management, African world studies and creative writing, but he wants to bring more Middle Eastern and Caribbean study programs as well.

"We should be one of the preferred places for students to come for an education," he said.

Meanwhile, across Northeast 151st Street from BBC, development is building up — 20,000 new residents to the area, he said.

The new pre-K and elementary school currently being constructed is one of only 11 schools planned for the area, and Moncarz said he has been in contact with school officials. He has asked school officials to make the new high school, which will be built next to the North Miami stadium, a journalism magnet school.

"We have a unique opportunity here because this area is growing so fast," he said.

But he acknowledges setbacks. He hoped the Marine Biology building would be finished by the start of this semester. That meant several 24-hour workdays for him last year. In addition, the cafeteria and gym will move into larger spaces once the Wolfe University Center building (that is two years behind schedule) is completed. Moncarz said he tries not to go to the University Park campus.

"People appreciate that I am an advocate for the students and this campus," he said.

The ethnic diversity of BBC is a source of pride, he said.

"We have a number of races in class, and we have not had one problem."

Moncarz said that working together is important for students and faculty at this campus.

"Holding this position is how hard you work and get along with others to achieve your goals," he said. "That’s the message — the importance of service and working together."

University administrators praise Moncarz’s achievements at BBC.

"He is best described by the word gentleman. He has served the University as a leader and as a messenger to the community," said Modesto A. Maidique, University president. "He has been a strong advocate for BBC. He has been a supporter of the Marine Biology building, the renovation of these doors and the expansion of the WUC."

University Provost Ronald Berkman agrees.

"He’s done a really fine job of being an advocate at [BBC] and connecting that campus to the North Miami community," Berkman said. "He’s done a wonderful job of reaching out to the students."

Additional reporting by Biscayne Bay Editor Betty Martinez.
On March 1, President George W. Bush, along with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, announced an unprecedented agreement that loosens the reigns, so to speak, on Long ago, the Lord had said, my mind kept going back to a certain long-robed, clavichorda-wearing individual. Yes, I’m talking about Jesus. I always personally believed Jesus was insane. According to the Gospel of John (10:30) Jesus says “I and the Father are one.” I am of the opinion that the belief in oneself as divine is a pretty adequate indicator of mental illness. What solidifies Jesus’s insanity for me is those 12 guys that followed him around everywhere. Crazy people always need an audience so they can give their name. Yes, a belief in space planes seems crazy to us, but doesn’t Christianity have some equally insane beliefs? Mary for instance pregnant without ever having known a man’s touch, a 600-year-old man survived a flood that destroyed the entire world on a ship he himself built, a woman being turned into a pillar of salt, etc.

Another example is the resurrection. Scientologists also believe in reincarnation, except they believe it happens over and over again where Christians believe it only happened the one time when Christ was resurrected. Some might argue that what happened to Christ after being buried was not technically reincarnation, but to me it’s all rising back from the dead. Scientologists contain planes because it was conceived at a time when space travel was a possibility, just as the myths and beliefs in Jesus’ time are a part of Christianity. Given enough time and proper nurturing, Scientology could be a major religion in 2,000 years. Just like Scientology, Christianity was at first considered by many to be a cult-like and anti-social movement. Imagine you are a respectable Roman who believes in many Gods and a group of people who believe in only one God (and worship a convicted criminal) trying to ruin your household fun.

In fact, it might become a major religion faster than Christianity did. Already factions have split from the Church of Scientology which I consider the best way to be sort of a Scientological Protestant Reformation. For example, a group of people who broke off from the church in Amsterdam have formed Ron’s Organization and Network for Standard Tech. This group believes that the Church has become corrupted and has strayed too far from Hubbard’s original teachings. Scientologists are going through the motions much faster.

It might seem like a rough transition, but to make it smoother, Scientologists need to take a page from Christians. Christians took many pagan rituals and superimposed Christian values on top of them. For example, Scientologists believe in something called the ARC Triangle. It’s basically the three pillars of living a happy life: affluence, reality and communication. Triangles? Pine trees are triangular … Anyone see ARC trees popping up anytime soon? I suggest everyone get on the Scientology band wagon. It’s not a cult, it’s a movement. It’s not a apostle or early religious leader or maybe even, one day, a saint.

In fact, some books of the New Testament were written 50 to 100 years after Jesus’ death so it is perfectly fitting to make one’s name in the Church of Scientology. I know I’m going to.
Pressure in relationships

BY BRIAN GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

Love, such a sweet and delicate treat. The starring into one another’s eyes. The long nights of phone calls. Holding hands and romantic dates. Not to mention time and money. The paradigm shifts, the responsibilities, and the habits that you recently discovered from your significant other.

Okay, so there are pros and cons in a relationship. I’ll give you that. But men and women have always argued, who has the most pressure? Clearly it takes two to tango, but it’s hard to evenly distribute the responsibilities in a relationship.

Heck, we can’t evenly distribute the responsibilities in a group project, much less a relationship. Let’s not forget the ones confronting the woman in the beginning of the relationship.

“Guys take the relationship lightly. Women expect more from men,” said Lugo. Tellez agreed, saying “both have pressure, but girls worry a lot and always have to look good for men.”

Well what about a man? Don’t they have any kind of pressure? Clearly they are the ones confronting the woman in the beginning of the relationship. Let’s not forget the ones to choose the locations of their dates and paying for them (if they have class at least).

Men are the hunters and the protectors. Anything less and you’re only half a man. This is how society portrays them.

Well, I think all this is a load of rubbish. There is no pressure in a relationship anymore than there is pressure in our everyday lives. You have to pay the bills, go to work/school, go to the dentist. So why create more problems with a flaky relationship?

They are meant to be your companion, your sidekick, your Chewbacca, not Darth Vader! If you are getting angry with the one you are with more than you are smiling, something is definitely screwy and you should reconsider why you are together.

If you can’t come up with a few good reasons (and no, “because I love him” is not a good reason) why you are together within a minute or so, I suggest borrowing grandpa’s tackle box and finding other fish in the sea.

Anyone that says or thinks one side has more pressure than the other are most likely complainers and nobody likes a complainer. Get over yourself and start realizing that a relationship was meant to forget about little’s nuisances, not to create new ones. Until then I’ll be here fighting the darkside.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Are students too apathetic when it comes to on campus issues such as increases in tuition?

• Yes – Students need to be more concerned about these issues, which in the end affect them.

• No – Students are concerned enough with what goes on.

• It would be lovely if students would have been made more aware of these issues to begin with.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER

Aurora, Ill.: A new city ordinance in the town has made it illegal to have your Christmas lights up all year. Deck that with boughs of holly you silly overzealous Christmas lovers.

QUOTATION NATION

“People do lose jobs as a result of globalization and it’s painful for those who lose jobs.”

– George W. Bush, president of the United States, on the relationship between India and the United States. On a recent trip to India, Bush said that the outsourcing of jobs to India was a reality of the modern economy.

“I don’t think Hamas would have any serious future if Hamas doesn’t change.”

– Sergey V. Lavrov, Russian foreign minister, on Hamas’ role as leader of Palestine. Hamas was invited to Russia, where they were told they must accept the Israeli state and disarm their militias or they would be penalized by the international community. Russia has been criticized in the past for being lenient with Hamas.

“I have only four bullets in here.”

– Jabr Hashem al-Mousawi, militia commander in Baghdad, on guarding the Imam Ali mosque. The mosque is sacred to Shiite Muslims in the country but was given to Sunnis under Saddam Hussein’s rule. Recently, Shiites retook control of the mosque however.

“You’re going to want to do more things for a customer who is growing as fast as Wal-Mart is.”

– Ted Taft, managing director at the Meridian Consulting Group of Westport, Conn., on the growing power of Wal-Mart in creating the product it sells. The company convinced Coca-Cola to hold the release of a soft drink sweetened with Splenda. The company is the largest food retailer in the country.

“The hope is that it will be a way to engage students not only to grapple with these important issues, but to see them in the light of what God thinks of them.”

– Jonathan Cameron, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship member, on the activities and discussions the group will be having from March 6-9. The event will take place at the Betty Chapman Plaza outside of the Graham Center.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at the University Park campus, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beaconopinion@yahoo.com. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words.
Students participate in this traditional Middle Eastern flavored tobacco pastime

BY REUBEN PEREIRA
Staff Writer

The hookah – also known as the narghilie and the sheesha – is a traditional Middle Eastern water pipe used for smoking. From Europe to Asia, the device is becoming increasingly popular in the United States, from making appearances in a variety of local coffee shops and Arabian-themed restaurants to being a staple of numerous college students’ lifestyles, including many at FIU.

The hookah is comprised of four main parts: the smoke chamber – which is partially filled with water – a bowl which contains the tobacco and the heating apparatus, and the pipe, which connects the bowl with the base and the hose, through which the user inhales the smoke.

How does the hookah work? It’s quite simple. When a smoker inhales through the hose, the air passes through the coal on top of the hookah, heating the tobacco. This gives off smoke, pulled away from the tobacco, which travels from the bowl down the pipe, through the water and into the air of the smoke chamber where it is inhaled by the smoker.

Since the tobacco smoke passes through the water, the nicotine in the tobacco is filtered in addition to cooling the smoke.

Junior Divesh Sujan was introduced to the hookah a year ago when a friend persuaded him to try one.

“My friend from Washington D.C. was the one who introduced me to the hookah,” Sujan said. “He had bought his hookah when he was on a holiday in Dubai, the city in the United Arab Emirates.”

Junior Richard Lopez also is a big fan of the hookah.

“I was introduced to it through my boyfriend when we went to a Lebanese restaurant. I knew it was a water pipe but I didn’t know what it did exactly,” Lopez said.

Ivannessa Arostegui, also a junior, has been a fan of the hookah and the Arabian culture for over a year. She agrees that she was skeptical at first.

“I was a little reluctant at first because of the wide misconceptions relating hookah and some drugs, but after I tried it, I really enjoyed it,” Lopez said.

Arostegui said. “When I tried it, it was great, and along with the belly dancing, the Arabic food and locale, it was a wonderful experience. I always smoke it with a group of friends, in a social setting. I think most people smoke it in a social way and unlike cigarettes or drugs, you can’t get addicted to it.”

The hookah’s ability to produce pleasant, non-irritating smoke has made it widely believable that smoking from one is significantly less harmful than smoking a cigarette.

Unlike cigarettes, which involves the burning of dry tobacco, the hookah employs the heating of moist, sometimes pasty tobacco that emits only 5 percent nicotine.

Misconceptions about the hookah arise because it functions and resembles a bong – a device used for smoking marijuana.

Sophomore Alison Costa is a frequent visitor of Devine (located in South Beach) and the Oasis (located in Coconut Grove), which are hookah lounges in Miami. Costa said that a lot of people are afraid to smoke the hookah because they think that it is like smoking cigarettes, marijuana or worse.

“A lot of people look at it and have misconceptions that it’s a drug or is like smoking cigarettes, weed or worse,” Costa said. “It’s actually the safest type of tobacco because the tobacco is filled with water and the tar is removed.”

Traditionally, hookah tobaccos were produced using a mixture of shredded tobacco leaves and a sweetener like honey or a semi-dried fruit.

However, with the popularity of various different artificial flavors in the 1990s, sheesha tobacco is now being mixed with dried fruits, natural extracts and flavorings to produce an assortment of flavors such as apple, mint, jasmine, strawberry, melon, cappuccino, mixed fruit and even cola.

Currently, there are more than 100 flavors available on the market.

The hookah itself is available in a variety of different styles and designs. Most popular among the hookahs are the classical Egyptian hookahs with one hose – most popular in the Arab and Egyptian societies; there’s the modern hookahs with multiple hoses that are very popular in Western societies like the United States and the United Kingdom; there are also Syrian, Bohemian and specialty hookahs available.

“What I see from the hookah is that people can spend good times with friends and learn from them,” Sujan said. “It’s different from going out and drinking beer or watching a movie. You could say it’s comparable to playing cards with friends. But really, there isn’t anything like it. It’s incomparable.”

Tips for smoking your hookah

- Be in a good state of mind. Sit on a comfortable sofa or among cushions. Relaxing music can create a nice atmosphere.
- Fill the glass base (smoke chamber) with water, a little more than half is ideal. Make sure only the end of the tube is in the water.
- Make sure the container (where the tube and the base connect) is air tight.
- Fill the tobacco in the ceramic container (the haggar) and cover it with aluminum foil. Don’t forget to punch small holes in the foil.
- Take a round charcoal and place it on top of the foil and light it. This is where those holes in the foil come in.
- Wait until the tobacco begins to heat and then inhale strongly two or three times through the hose (you’ll notice the water bubbling in the base) and you’ll start tasting the flavor. Enjoy!

- Compiled by Reuben Pereira
GET OUT!
A guide to moving out on your own

How to...

A series by Alina Bustamante

The following column is intended for entertainment purposes only.

It’s a 6 a.m. on a Saturday and you got home only about three hours before. You were just getting to the best part of your recurring “The Real World” dream (you know, the part where you’re making out in the hot tub then slap the guy for calling you the other roommate’s name), when all of a sudden you throw out of bed.

“What’s that sound?” you think to yourself. ‘It’s like a cat is getting run over by a lawn mower and oh – enjoying it.”

Still a little drunk, you stagger toward the door and feel for the knob. You open it and are greeted with what you’ve come to call the psycho circus. To your right, there’s abuela vacuuming to feel useful while listening to warbled romantic chemistry, throw a smoke bomb and escape through a window.

In any case, be clear and concise. Let them know it’s not personal (even though it is) and that you’re grateful for everything they’ve done (even though you’re not). Tell them you love them and that your love will never die – especially if they continue to pay for your tuition.

CAMARADERIE AMONG CHAOS

Now that step one is completed, it’s time to move on to the hard part: finding roommates and a place to live. Get creative for quick results. Post every night, experiencing a different culture every day.

“It’s a fun atmosphere because every one is on a cruise for the same purpose – get away,” said Sami Robb of Urbantons. “It’s like a moving hotel.”

The only catch is that with most cruise lines you have to be a certain age to be able to book a cabin.

Carnival Cruises requires its passengers to be 25 years of age and older to book a cabin if your party has a member under 21. However, if everyone in the cabin is 21, the previous requirement is void. As with Royal Caribbean Cruise, one must be 21 years old or older to book a cabin and be responsible for members under 21 in your party.

If you can somehow get around this stipulation, either by including someone of the appropriate age to your spring break festivities or taking dear Old’ Mom and Dad on a cruise for spring break, then a cruise is definitely something to look into.

Two of the cheapest cruises are the Carnival Fascination 4-day cruise and the Carnival Victory 7-day cruise, with prices ranging from $460 - $800. The Royal Caribbean Cruise prices are a bit more expensive, ranging from $700 - $950.

The Carnival Fascination’s 4-day cruise is a Western Caribbean cruise with embarkation in Key West, Fla. and Cozumel / Playa del Carmen.

SPRING BREAK DESTINATIONS

SEABOARD

Escape to an aquatic experience

BY ENRICA RYMER
Contributing Writer

Every year, thousands of college students start their Spring semesters off with dreams of the infamous spring break adventure, from jet skiing in the Virgin Islands to sunbathing in Mexico.

When looking for ways to turn these dreams into realities, many students turn to cruises for the answer. You’re in a different port just about every night, experiencing a different culture every day.

“It’s a fun atmosphere because every one is on a cruise for the same purpose – get away,” said Sami Robb of Urbantons.” It’s like a moving hotel.”

The only catch is that with most cruise lines you have to be a certain age to be able to book a cabin.

Carnival Cruises requires its passengers to be 25 years of age and older to book a cabin if your party has a member under 21. However, if everyone in the cabin is 21, the previous requirement is void. As with Royal Caribbean Cruise, one must be 21 years old or older to book a cabin and be responsible for members under 21 in your party.

If you can somehow get around this stipulation, either by including someone of the appropriate age to your spring break festivities or taking dear Old’ Mom and Dad on a cruise for spring break, then a cruise is definitely something to look into.

Two of the cheapest cruises are the Carnival Fascination 4-day cruise and the Carnival Victory 7-day cruise, with prices ranging from $460 - $800. The Royal Caribbean Cruise prices are a bit more expensive, ranging from $700 - $950.

The Carnival Fascination’s 4-day cruise is a Western Caribbean cruise with embarkation in Key West, Fla. and Cozumel / Playa del Carmen.

See CRUISE, page 8
Cruise offers sea voyage, adventures

Mexico
In a cruise, you get to experience Shore Excursions – exciting tours of your destination offered in many cruise packages which include the price of transportation and meals.

In Key West they offer Shore Excursions such as a nature kayaking tour to a Catamaran Sail and a snorkeling session. In Mexico they offer an all terrain vehicle (ATV) Beach Adventure to a horse-back riding adventure through the Mayan frontier.

As for the Victory Cruise, they offer an Eastern Caribbean cruise that goes to Puerto Rico, St. Maarten and St. Thomas. There’s a lot to do in San Juan, Puerto Rico and lots of unique Shore Excursions. The excursions include a Bacardi Evening Experience (drinking age of 18) and a Full Moon Kayak Experience.

St. Maarten offers many beautiful beaches, gourmet cuisine and some of the best duty-free shopping in the Caribbean. One Shore Excursions in St. Maarten is the Deep Sea Fishing Adventure.

Next on the sea voyage is St. Thomas, which is immersed in culture and heritage. With duty-free shopping – which means you do not have to pay taxes on a purchase – and pirate landmarks, it is one of the most well-known islands in the Caribbean in terms of vacations.

However, if you decide to stay on the ship during the cruise, Carnival offers many onboard experiences. You can start your day with a breakfast buffet, then proceed to take a dip in the pool, visit the Gift Shop and get a massage in the Spa for a small fee.

A cabin steward provides a list of daily activities that will take place for the next day and night. With live music on the pool deck, aquatic aerobics classes and reality games like “Who wants to be a Millionaire” and “Survivor at Sea” with Carnival cruise themes, there are endless ways of staying entertained.

As the night falls there are also many activities to do on board the cruise ship. On Carnival, there are various comedy and dance shows premiered every night. There is a dance club on board as well, featuring a live DJ every night.

The onboard cuisine includes a great buffet and casual dining area – which is all inclusive with your cruise fee – then a sophisticated dining experience with a set up of white linen table cloths, personal service and a nice steak or pasta meal.

A cruise can be a great way to experience different exotic locations and still enjoy fun and unique activities on board. Cruises offer a way to dance the night away or have a romantic dinner in the middle of the big blue ocean.

For more information, a travel agency is located at the University Park Graham Center, which offers an array of Caribbean cruises for the spring break period.

The Beacon is now hiring photographers!

Pick up an application at University Park in GC 210 or Biscayne Bay Campus in WUC 124
Ismael N'Diaye, also playing in his final game in FIU's road blue uniform, had a perfect shooting night and finished with 13 points in five attempts.

"Ismael N'Diaye has been a warrior for us as well. The poor guy has never recovered from his injuries and I am going to miss him tremendously." - Sergio Rouco, head coach

Junior Johwen Villegas led FIU with 14 points even though he struggled with his shooting, especially late in the match-up as he tried to get FIU within striking distance. Villegas finished the game shooting 4-for-12 from the field and just 3-for-10 from beyond the arc. FIU could blame a poor start for the final loss in a disappointing season. The Golden Panthers shot 35 percent in the first half and trailed by 14 at the break, 24-20.

The second half proved just as frustrating as New Orleans' game plan worked to perfection and extended the Privateer lead to 18 points with 13 minutes remaining.

"I'm mad at myself," Rouco said. "I'm upset with our guys. We live in Miami and Miami brings the Caribbean out of you. They get a little too comfortable and I need guys that have toughness. I shed a lot of tears last year when we lost. I didn't shed many this year to be honest. I wasn’t very happy with some people’s efforts. It’s my job to correct that."

New Orleans avenged their first round loss to the Golden Panthers from the 2003 Conference Tournament.

We are definitely not good enough. We have to get better players. You need more than just an [Almonte] to win this league.

"I give the okay to. We are not good enough. We are definitely not good enough. We have to get better players. You need more than just an [Almonte] to win this league."

"I’m upset with our guys. We live in Miami and Miami brings the Caribbean out of you. They get a little too comfortable and I need guys that have toughness. I shed a lot of tears last year when we lost. I didn’t shed many this year to be honest. I wasn’t very happy with some people’s efforts. It’s my job to correct that."

New Orleans avenged their first round loss to the Golden Panthers from the 2003 Conference Tournament.

If you’re planning a career in medicine, consider the field of podiatry. You could manage your own podiatric practice, work in a hospital or clinic, or attend to an athletic team. As a podiatric physician, you diagnose, treat, and prevent disorders and injuries to the foot and ankle.

One of only two podiatry programs in the nation affiliated with a comprehensive university, Barry University’s podiatric medicine offers you extensive research facilities, distinguished hospital and medical center affiliations, and excellent opportunities for residency programs and externships across the United States.

As a student at Barry University, you join a caring, Catholic community on a graceful, green campus in Miami Shores, Florida.

Find out if Barry is where you belong. Visit us at www.barry.edu/podiatry.

SPORTS FANATICS

Are you a huge sports fan? Then the sports section is the place for you. Write for us!
SPORTS

10

‘I GOT IT’: Redshirt junior Bryan Pullin was named Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week for the week of Feb. 27. The centerfield went 6-for-12 in FIU’s three-game series against Alabama Feb. 24-26. Pullin led off each game with a hit and had all three of FIU’s hits in the 7-0 loss Feb. 26.

CHRIS CERNO/THE BEACON

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Enroll now and get $100 back!

Receive $100 back through Kaplan’s Rebate when you enroll in a Kaplan course in March.

Take advantage of this limited-time offer, Enroll today.

1-800-KAP-TEST | kaptest.com/rebate

HIGHER TEST SCORES GUARANTEED OR YOUR MONEY BACK*
Nothing is perfect, and nothing is a greater example of that than the current scuffle between the NFL and the NFL Players Association. In the end, it’s always about the money.

For the past few years, the NFL was the professional sports league that the others – i.e. the MLB, NBA and the NHL – used as a benchmark. From an administrative standpoint, that is.

Its system seemed impeccable, with a salary cap, non-guaranteed contracts and a high stream of revenue as the main things the other leagues admired. Again, from an administrative standpoint.

However, in comparison to the other leagues, the NFL players were the ones getting the shaft financially.

For instance, in the NBA, once a player signs a contract, he’s guaranteed that money until the length of his contract – regardless if he plays or not. So if a player signs a six-year, $60 million contract and gets cut after three, he’ll still make every penny.

If you’re an NFL player, sign a similar deal and get cut after three years, your money line gets cut.

What the NFL players are fighting for now is a higher percentage of the revenue share the owners receive. The players want 60 percent of total football revenue, the owners are countering with 56.2 percent. A difference of 3.8 percent, which seems like a small number, means a difference of about $2 billion.

For us average Joes, that’s an inconceivable amount of money. (A billionaire can hypothetically spend $1,000 a day for 1,000 years and would still spend way under half his fortune.) But it’s still something the players can live without.

The average salary for an NFL player is about $1.3 million. In the NHL it’s a little over $1 million. In MLB it’s about $2.5 million and in the NBA it’s approximately a whopping $5 million.

What the heck? These guys are millionaires and they still want more money. The excuse of the players is that the owners hog all the money, while the players put the product out there.

Well, professional sports are like any other business. The CEOs of Ford Motor Company and General Motors make millions, while the laborers on the assembly line, who produce the actual products, make well under six-figure salaries.

The players will also say they risk permanent injury every day on the field. Oh, really? Coal miners, who make under $40,000 a year, risk their lives, as well as permanent injury, on a daily basis.

To put it into perspective, I was at a Florida Marlins’ game once and happened to be sitting next to a police officer. We started talking about Randy Johnson – who was playing for the Arizona Diamondbacks at the time – and how intimidating he was.

Then I said, “That’s why they pay him $16 million a year.”

His reply: “$16 million? I had a gun pulled on me the other day and I barely make $60,000. Put him in my job for a day and he’ll [deprecate in] his pants. His biggest fear is giving up a lead. My biggest fear is leaving my kids without a father.”

If you are a professional athlete, how can you defend yourself against that? It’s unfortunate that teachers, firefighters, police officers, coal miners and even doctors and lawyers make less than pro athletes and Hollywood actors, but there’s nothing we can do about that. I guess life is unfair.

But it’s freaking ridiculous when former NBA star Latrell Spreewell is offended when he’s offered a contract for $7 million a year and says, “I have kids to feed.”

Regardless of what happens between the NFL owners and the players union, regardless of who gets what percentage of the revenue, those millionaires are going to remain millionaires.

And I’m terribly jealous.

Before she designed and developed technical solutions for major clients ...

And before she coordinated improvements for supply chain management throughout Latin America ...

She earned an MBA from the University of Miami.

UM’s MBA Program was ranked #1 in Florida by corporate recruiters in The Wall Street Journal. This means at UM, you’ll gain more than the knowledge to lead, manage and motivate. You’ll be a part of a renowned alma mater that can open doors across the nation - and around the world. And you can do it with the convenience of choosing from a One or Two Year program. Both programs are fully accredited by AACSB International – the most prestigious accrediting association for business schools in the world. Join us for a campus visit and find out why the University of Miami is the right choice for you.

2y: 48 credit cohort program • Scholarships and assistantships available
1y: 32 credit cohort program • 28 weeks of class time • Undergraduate degree in buisness required • Summer internships
MURFREESBORO, TENN. – The men’s basketball team’s only game in this year’s Sun Belt Conference Tournament was much like the rest of their season – a disappointment.

Outmatched from the beginning, the Golden Panthers (8-20, 4-11) were握手 for the Privateers of New Orleans (10-18, 7-9) 76-56 in the opening round March 3 at the Murphy Center on the campus of Middle Tennessee University.

"FIU beat us by nine at home [in January],” New Orleans head coach Monte Towe said. “I just felt the defensive effort our kids gave tonight was tremendous. I think it was the defense and the rebounding that made us tough in the game. It was a total team victory.”

For the Golden Panthers the loss was a bitter end to a very tough season.

“They brought it to us,” head coach Sergio Rouco said, following his team’s final game of the season. “They hit us in the mouth and we didn’t hit them back.”

FIU’s senior forward Ivan Almonte was held in check in his final game in a Golden Panther uniform, as he was only able to muster three points – all of which came in the second half – and 12 rebounds in the devastating loss.

“It is hard for me as a player to come into my last game and play like that,” Almonte said. “I always come to play hard, but I didn’t bring my game today. I just hope the team can get better and get it started again.”

New Orleans’ Shawn Malloy and Jacob Manning took care of FIU’s Dominican forward all afternoon and held him to 0-for-11 shooting from the field. Malloy added 14 points and eight rebounds in leading his club to victory.

“Our game plan was to limit his touches and make him work on the defensive end. I felt we did that,” Malloy said. “Having [Almonte] go 0-for-11 for the game is a big plus for us in winning.”

UNO’s Jeremie Davis, who earlier in the week was named the SBC Player of the Week, dropped 15 points in just 24 minutes of play as he connected on 3-of-5 3-point attempts.

Forward Nathaniel Parker was a constant scare for the Golden Panthers as he dominated a shaky Kenny Simms inside the paint and also finished with 15 points, seven of which came from the free throw line.

See MEN, page 9