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The Beacon, March 13, 2006

Florida International University

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No Parking: Parking Lot Five will be closed during the operation of the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition through April 9. Lot Six will be open only to housing students. The University Parking and Traffic department recommends parking in the Red Garage and the Panther Garage.

Due to contractual obligations with the Miami-Dade Youth Fair, Lot 5 will close from March 6, 2006 until April 9, 2006.

Parking lots affected by Youth Fair

BY REUBEN PEREIRA
Staff Writer

With the arrival of the 55th Annual Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition, those commuting to the University Park campus are expected to experience heightened traffic levels and a harder time finding a parking spot.

The fair, which will take place from March 16 to April 2, is a highly anticipated event for the county and city of Miami, as well as a time of stress and inconvenience for some students, faculty and staff at FIU.

Junior Matthew Gonzales not pleased about the upcoming fair.

"Parking is already a huge problem at FIU. It takes a long time to get a spot," Gonzales said. "But now that the fair is coming, it's going to be worse. It's just ridiculous."

Bill Foster, director of FIU’s Parking and Traffic Department, said that he understands the plight of the students as well as faculty and staff members.

However, he stated that even though he knows that the traffic coming in and out if the fair is going to be inconvenient, students have to look at the situation from a different point of view.

"The fair is a huge benefit and means of exposure for the University and people need to have the right kind of understanding," he said. "Yes, it is an inconvenience, there is no doubt about that, but the University gets a lot out of it and we need to be patient."

Foster added that this year there will be one week less to worry about because the second week of the fair will be taking place during Spring Break.

"The benefit that we have this year is that most of the crowd comes in on the first day, which happens to be a Thursday, and then the following week happens to be Spring Break," Foster said. "So we only have to deal with the last week of the festival as opposed to two weeks."

Over the course of the last decade, the fair has collaborated with the University in organizing the parking scheme. Parking Lots Five and Six were originally built on the grounds of the fair to create additional parking for patrons of the fair.

The county fair has also been a big supporter of FIU, donating more than $3 million toward the construction of the Wertheim Performing Arts Center, which also partly falls under the county fair property.

During the fair, Lots Five and Six will be closed to fair patrons for separate reasons. Lot Five will be used by the fair to house the people who travel with carnivals from state to state and for the staging and preparation of various equipment used during the fair. Lot Six, on the other hand, will be open exclusively to students living on campus.

"We’re trying to help housing by keeping traffic away from their lots," Foster said. "Lot Six has a couple of gates that the campus police department will guard during the course of the fair so that no one besides students get to park there."

During the fair, Parking and Traffic will be more lenient toward students.

"I understand that the increase in traffic will cause more students to park in the garages but tickets will most likely not be given out during the tenure of the fair," Foster said. "However, this doesn’t mean they can go out and violate the laws. It really depends on the violation. Some violations can’t go unnoticed."

Students complain about the inconveniences of the parking situation.

"It’s during times like these I’m happy I don’t have a car," said Sophomore Diana Carmichael.

"I remember last year, whenever my mother pointed out all the signs that said no parking and I thought, ‘Oh, yeah, I’ll take the bus’ but it’s just a lot better if you have a car," said Sophomore Manuela Alcaide.

"We represent beauty in different shapes and forms," said senior Mfon Essiet, founder of Myztique Modelz. "Beauty is accentuate those features. I will have them pose or arrange their face a certain way in order to bring out what is special about them."

All models, like Alysse Gibson a sophomore, possess a different style and walk. 

"I’m shorter and runways usually call for models that are tall. Myztique gives me a chance to do both print and runway together," Gibson said.

Essiet established Myztique Modelz last summer.

While there are many dance and singing organizations, Essiet saw a need for another type of performing art at the University.

"We had every type of entertainment at FIU except modeling," Essiet said. "Essiet felt that the art of modeling was a necessary addition to the club scene at FIU."

Try-outs were held at the beginning of the Fall semester.

About 55 students from the Business Bay Campus and University Park attended.

The judges were composed of members of Myztique Modelz’s executive board.

Both genders were judged on his or her ability to walk, pose and respond to critique.

Judges also looked at how quickly the models were able to learn stage choreography.

"The designers are excited when they see that Myztique has male models," said club member senior Rion Daley. "Male modeling is more competitive than female modeling."

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THE BEACON

WWW.BEACONNEWSPAPER.COM

BY DIANNE DAWKINS
Contributing Writer

Myztique Modelz has taken center stage to give students a complete fashion report – something students should look out for.

Myztique Modelz is geared to helping models with or without experience improve his or her modeling skills and self-esteem as well.

"We represent beauty in different shapes and forms," said senior Mfon Essiet, founder of Myztique Modelz. "Beauty is diverse and we want to show that."

Currently, Myztique Modelz is the only club at FIU that focuses on the art of runway and print modeling, according to Essiet.

I try to focus on the best attributes for each model and accentuate those features. I will have them pose or arrange their face a certain way in order to bring out what is special about them.

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TUESDAY • MARCH 14

SPC American Heritage presents "Picnic on the Lawn": 12 p.m., GC Lawn (UP)

SPC General Meeting: 3:30 p.m., GC 140 (UP)

SOC Meeting: 5:30 p.m., GC 150 (UP)

SPC American Heritage presents "Billy's Housetown Karaoke Night": 7 p.m., Gracie's Grill (UP)

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 15

Picnic Above the Green: 12:30 p.m., 2nd floor Academic 2 Balcony Area (BBC)

SPC Lecture Series presents Jasmine Guy: 7 p.m., WUC 245 (BBC)

SPC American Heritage presents "A Day at the Rodeo": 12 p.m., GC Pit (UP)

SPC Films and American Heritage presents "Walk The Line" (Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon) “Dinner and a Movie: 8 p.m., GC Ballrooms (FREE Food catered by Shorty’s BBQ) (UP)

S.I.S. Rosebuds perform: 8 p.m., Everglades Hall Lounge (UP)

“Taking Back The Night”: 9 p.m., Women’s Center (GL 2200)

THURSDAY • MARCH 16

SOC General Meeting: 2:30 p.m., WUC 159 (BBC)

African New World Studies Women’s Film Festival: 7 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)

Biscayne Bay Writers on the Bay series: 8 p.m., WUC 245 (BBC)

Lyrical Vibe – On Point Poetry: 8 p.m., WUC 155 (BBC)

SPC American Heritage presents “Line Dancing": 12 p.m., GC Pit (UP)

International Students Dinner: 7 p.m., Faculty Club Lounge (UP)

FRIDAY • MARCH 17

YMCA Gospel Night Out Concert: 8 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)

Film - The Unheralded: 7 p.m., The Wolfsonian (1001 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, FL)

SATURDAY • MARCH 18

Selections from Unseen Cinema – Early Avant Garde film: 2 p.m., The Wolfsonian (1001 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, FL)

SUNDAY • MARCH 19

Baseball hosts Columbia: 1 p.m., University Park Baseball fields (Tickets - $5 (Adults), $3 (Seniors, Youth), Free (FIU students with ID) (UP)

— Compiled by Reuben Pereira
Myztique Modelz impress designers, students

From MODELS, page 1

In the end, only 20 female models and 15 male models made it.

Myztique members are photographed by sophomore Slim Jeffrey, a freelance photographer who brings out the best in each model through his positive energy and original posing arrangements.

"I try to focus on the best attributes for each model and accentuate those features," Jeffrey said. "I will have them pose or arrange their face a certain way in order to bring out what is special about them."

Models are photographed in realistic backgrounds such as campus classrooms and lounge areas. Myztique models are also photographed at Biscayne Bay and various Miami and Ft. Lauderdale beaches. The runway music and choreography is left up to Essett.

"I like originality, so when we are coming up with the show the creativity flows out," Essett said. "I draw inspiration from everything I see around me."

Essett uses a variety of fashion categories in her shows, ranging from Afrocentric style clothing to professional business attire.

Myztique models exhibit clothes from many local designers who like to see their ideas hit the runway. Some of these designers include Beel Tisi Fashions, Designs by Immadelle, Kulture Clothes and Mendoza Mobile Fashions. All of the designers keep both the male and female models looking sharp and trendy for their fashion shoots and runway shows.

"I was impressed with how professional the Myztique models were," said Sunnie Morrison of Mendoza Mobile Fashions. "It is can be difficult find male models who can fit into the variety sizes we offer, particularly the tuxedos."

A variety of models is important to designers, according to Morrison.

Myztique Modelz held their first runway show this year Feb. 23.

"I thought the show was well put together," said senior Pedro Phillips. "The outfits were interesting and the choreography was great. I liked the way the models moved to the music."

Additional information is available at www.mfonessiet.com or Modelz@fiu.edu.

Myztique Modelz will walk the runway in their second show of the semester April 10 in the Graham Center's pit at 11 a.m at University Park.
I didn’t know what to make of Adrian Diaz’s article “Scandal is absurd as Christianity’s” published in The Beacon, March 6. At first it was complete nonsense. I read it, re-read it and then I said, “It would be easy to dismiss Scientology as a cult populated solely by wackos.” Can it be assumed, then, that Christianity and (easily extrapolating to Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, et al) is populated by wackos? Where is Aquinas, Luther, Kant, Descartes and the uncountable others? Your article falls for ignorance and lame mockery, trying to mask itself behind incoherent, rambling sequences only fit in Ionesco’s plays. You also argue that resurrection and reincarnation “is all rising from the dead.” I’ll not preach to the choir, but reincarnation is the cycle of the monad coming back in a new form, to the physical world to learn. Resurrection is just bringing someone from their deceased state, with the same body, ailments, etc.

It’s easy to comment and make easy talk but your sardonic is ineffective when you want to impress and elaborate gstream with absurd information. I admire the right for your opinion; however, this doesn’t mean you couldn’t know more about your subject. Do try to be a bit more illuminated next time.

- Adrian Mourin
Senior English major

Herald’s motives questionable

Recent findings from a Miami Herald investigation showed that University President Modesto A. Maidique has a taste for traveling in style. The Miami Herald concluded that Maidique spent about $80,000 in state money ($66,000 to FIU’s private foundation money for travel during the four-year period that it reviewed.

Looking at the numbers, the first thing that comes to mind is how on earth can someone spend $140,000 on traveling expenses in a span of four years?

Here are just a few examples of The Herald’s findings: A trip to Port St. Lucie during which Maidique chartered a private plane and rented a limousine for a total cost of $1,616; stays at The Plaza in New York, the St. Regis in Washington and the Ritz Carlton in Madrid; a $7,600 four-day trip to Paris.

Maidique is not a celebrity like Tom Cruise to be spending zaniness and melonizing to put a smile on the FIU Board of Directors, to be questioned, considering that Maidique will find out if his much lobbed medical school proposal will be accepted by the Board of Governors March 25.

Also, although he does not excite, it is more or less a well known fact that many University presidents spend lavishly. However, it is certainly not a first-page story.

We take issue with this as it shows more than anything that Maidique might have been singled out. Even though this fact does not assuage our concerns over his actions, it does lead us to wonder what The Herald’s motives may have been.

Iranian threats worsen situation

BY CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
Opinion Editor

Who the hell does Iran think they are? As the nuclear situation between Tehran and the rest of the world heats up, the Iranian government has resorted to intimidation, as it finds itself backed into a comer.

“The United States has the power to cause harm and pain. But the United States is also susceptible to harm and pain. So that is the path that the U.S. wishes to choose, let the ball roll.”

Those words, spoken by Ali Aqbar Soltanine, chief Iranian delegate to the International Atomic Energy Agency, sent ripples through the international commum. Not only is Tehran refusing to relinquish its nuclear program, it is now making threats.

The threatening remarks were said to be in reference to the oil industry, which is among the largest in the world.

I am the type of person who usually always goes for the underdog. In the World Series, Super Bowl and NBA Championships, I am the one you’ll always find rooting for the team less likely to win.

Let’s be honest, here shall we? I understand the modest approach to world policy ‘thing’ and that flaunting the fact that the United States is the world’s only remaining superpower – the one with the world’s strongest and most technologically advanced military – would be a very arrogant thing to do.

The only thing that the United States and its allies have threatened Iran with is a trip to U.N. Security Council – the harshest penalty of which, should Iran choose not to cooperate, would be economic sanctions. However, because the Security Council, and the U.N. in general, is incapable of doing anything productive, Iran will probably receive nothing more than an angry letter.

In contrast to the situation between Tehran, in which the world was divided in its support for a military intervention, the world is united in its efforts against Tehran. There is no doubt whether or not Iran has nuclear technology and there is no doubt that they seek nuclear weapons.

Iran, its officials and its presid-
Lifestyle choices lead to obesity

BY RIAN O. GONZALEZ Contributing Writer

Ever walked down the street, or maybe through campus, and saw a man or woman that’s twice as large than anyone else around you? Did you want to laugh inside but felt you would offend this stranger?

Now we have all seen fat people in our day, maybe everyday. But the definition begins to differ with racial groups. Obesity has been a large topic in the United States and even the world, for years now. Many have claimed it as a growing epidemic that is affecting our children. Cartoons and television have been using obesity for slapstick comedy for years now but in reality, obesity is no laughing matter.

Excessive body weight opens up risks for many deadly diseases like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, sleep apnea and osteoarthritis to name a few. It is also considered a risk factor for certain cancers. When you read this and realize that half of Americans are overweight and a staggering 18 percent are obese, you begin to worry about the health issues of our country. You can blame the fast food industry and the rise of the “Biggie Size” dynasty, or video games that brainwash the children into preferring a virtual reality playmate than their neighbor, but we don’t blame a gun in a murder case. There are two problems with the obese children of America. First, they prefer that lifestyle over any other and, secondly, their parents allow them to be accustomed to that lifestyle. Others feel curious with the excuse that it is genetics and they can’t help it. They believe that obesity does not only risk other diseases, but it is a disease itself. These people make me hope Darwin’s theory lacks in natural selection begins to take place. To say you can’t help being fat is the ultimate sign of giving up. Don’t take my word for it, Carlos Cortes, a board certified doctor said in an interview with The Beacon, “You are not predetermined on your weight, genetics have nothing to do with it.”

This article can run on for pages on my argument that obesity is not a disease, but the fact is there is no argument that obesity is, in fact, a disease. While that makes my argument easier, it also renders it pointless. The fact you’re eating more calories than you are burning a day.

I’m no doctor, but I sure can count. Subtract one donut plus a jog around the block equals a better body. But they didn’t teach you that in Algebra did they? I’m not your mother so I can’t tell you not to stop using that lame excuse on your weight. For those that want to do something about it, see you guys at the gym.

Google self-censorship in China hypocritical

BY JONEL NURSE-CUPIDORE Contributing Writer

In its latest strategy, Google has again censored itself for the authorities in Beijing. This action by the leading search engine is somewhat ironic, because this happened soon after it resisted efforts by the U.S. Department of Justice to disclose data on what people were searching for.

China’s market of about 100 million Internet users is certainly a great incentive for Google to want to jump right in and offer their services. What might be the penalty for such an action?

How can Google, a company growing to a free and democratic society, go along with the communist ideals of another? It is certainly mind-boggling to think of this relationship.

I see Google as a giant chameleon, changing, to match its surroundings. Indeed, the Internet company was forced to go along with the government’s control in China. The topics being censored include material about human rights, Tibet and other issues considered sensitive to the Chinese government.

What that translates to is what happened within minutes of the Google-launched new site bearing China’s web suffix, ‘.cn.’ People, who were searching for information on banned sites, were directed to articles condemning that topic.

In a statement to MSNBC, Andrew McLaughlin, defended Google.cn, as better serving Chinese customers. “In deciding how best to approach the Chinese - or any - market, we must balance our commitments to satisfy the interests of users, expand access to information, and respond to local conditions,” he said. This statement embodies the chameleon idea. We can only keep our eyes open and pay attention to what happens next.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think that the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair will affect the parking situation at FIU?

• Yes – The parking situation here is bad as it is – it seems like it will only get worse.
• No – The University has made sufficient improvements to its parking facilities.
• I don’t care whether it gets worse or not. The Youth Fair is worth it.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

Winner & Loser

Winner: Jason Wood. The 34-year-old winner won the Southwest Florida regional finals of ‘Rock, Paper Scissors.’ Incidentally, that was how the Supreme Court decided Bush would be president in 2001.

Loser: Mississippi: A bill running through the legislature in the state proposes that after June 30, the state does not have to make hunting incidents like getting eaten by a bear public record.

Quotathon

“In order to win the war on terror we have got to strengthen our friendships and relationships with moderate Arab countries in the Middle East.”

George W. Bush, president of the United States, on the political storm caused over the possibility of a Duba company handling security in U.S. ports.

“It is starting to attract those persons who were no longer in the labor force or were counted as not in the labor force.”

– Richard Yamarone, director of economic research at Argus research, on job growth and rising wages that have happened in the past month. Unemployment rates also rose but only as a result of people beginning to actively search for jobs again because of the promise of new jobs.

“The story here is not that they made a mistake in the scanning and scoring but that they seem to have no fail-safe to alert them directly and immediately of a mistake.”

Marilee Jones, dean of admissions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on SAT scoring errors made by one of the largest companies in the standardized testing business.

“Your team practices and you prepare, but you never know what will happen on game day.”

– Richard Zurek, project scientist for NASA, on a seven month mission that will study Mars.

“People are sort of loving their grip.”

– Gary Woodard, associate director of the University of Arizona Center for Sustainability of Semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas, on people’s reaction to the dry spell in Pheonix, Az. It has not rained there for 141 days.

“Mal modeling is more competitive than female modeling and Myztique helps us get the practice we need to work in the field.”

– Rion Daley, Myztique Models club member. Myztique Models have their next show March 27.
It is possible that weak brain activity, weight gain, more than 30 percent of large truck accidents and a faster aging process can all be caused by the same factor? The answer is yes and it affects a great amount of college students – it’s the continuous lack of sleep.

Many students love to sleep but think that they don’t have time to get enough hours, while others believe that they’d rather be doing something more productive with their time.

Many also believe that stress is a factor of sleep deprivation as well. It may sometimes be caused by stress and students do come in for stress consultation for which [the Health and Wellness Center] have certain courses,” said Jimena Vaillant, Health and Wellness center senior clerk.

Regardless of the reason why many students aren’t getting enough sleep, taking it for granted can have serious health outcomes in the long run.

“I’m not aware of a lot of the consequences of not getting enough sleep, but when I don’t sleep enough my body feels it,” junior Cristina Guzman said. “It happens all the time during midterms and finals, where I often times go days with about five to six hours of sleep per night. If I do this for a couple of days, in the end, my body simply doesn’t function the same. I feel exhausted and it even affects my mood.”

One of the obvious reasons students attend college is to get an education. To reach this goal, the brain must retain information in certain subjects that are later tested on.

For those who have made sleep deprivation part of their busy schedules, the truth is that sooner or later it takes a toll on students’ brains and academic performance.

A medical website, www.webmd.com, states that sleep deprivation “may have serious consequences both on performance and on the way your brain functions.” It also states that research done on young people who took a word examination after staying awake for 35 hours showed that the part of the brain responsible for language had shut down.

Many students don’t sleep enough because of their busy lifestyles. Sleep deprivation can be caused by various factors. Faiza Charles, a wellness assistant at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus Wellness Center, said she suffers from anxiety symptoms that corrupt her sleep at night.

“Whenever I’m worried about something or if I have an exam I get so anxious that I can’t sleep,” Charles said. “I also have trouble sleeping if I have a heavy meal before I go to bed.”

As a student at FIU, she also knows that many students think attending classes and nutrition consultants are available assistance programs to help students lead a healthy life. A particular stress management program offered weekly by the Wellness Center, titled “Cloud 9,” even includes free massages and game activities.

The National Sleep Foundation has categories for different types of sleep patterns that people can quiz themselves on through the web at www.sleepfoundation.org.

With the impact that sleep has on our bodies, figuring out which category you fall under might be a good way to find out what’s triggering your sleeping problem in order to find a solution.

Fetish parties indulge unusual fantasies for students

BY BOBBY JOE BRACY
Staff Writer

When you walk into any fetish party, the atmosphere is intimidating at first. The persistent bass line of industrial music rattles the bones of the club, while strobe lights throw like little mechanical organs around the room. Off by the bar, a handsome young couple bares hot wax from bar candles on each other. The dance floor, ornamented with cages and sex swings, is shaking with bodies clad in leather, fishnet and outfits showing plenty of skin. It’s not quite the orgy or sex fest many people might assume them to be, but the partygoers seem to be having plenty of fun anyway.

You’ve probably never heard of these events before: extra- gant parties of leather, whips, cages and nipple pasties. Maybe you know someone who goes to these “fetish parties” and it reminds you of that scene in the movie Party Monster where everyone is dancing seductively to electro clash and wearing macabre outfits. Everyone gets together under one roof to party the night away and rejoice in his or her collective kinkiness.

The most popular fetish parties are thrown by thefetishfactory.com. Fetish Factory has been hosting fetish parties each month, a.k.a. the alter ego parties, for nearly a decade.

According to thefetishfactory.com the party has grown to be the largest monthly strict dress code fetish party in North America, with typical attendance of about 800 people each month.

Most people who don’t go to fetish parties just don’t feel comfortable going. A lot of stigma and taboo surrounds the topic of sex and fetish parties, where sexuality is a prominent theme.

“I wouldn’t go to one at the moment,” said sophomore Matthew Fay. “I don’t know much about them, so they seem dangerous and I would probably feel nervous and uncomfortable.”

Others feel it goes against their moral or religious beliefs. “I would never go to one.”
NAME: XIMENA CORDERO
CURRENT POSITION: MARKETING MANAGER FOR PANTHER DINING

1. WHY DID YOU GET OUT OF BED THIS MORNING?
   The biggest and strongest force is because I have to work. Duty calls. I had to wake up because I have to come to work and help people at FIU. I am the Marketing Manager for Panther Dining; I have the biggest scope in my position because I speak to customers, serve the e-mail complaints and suggestions, comments ... I make sure everything is aligned for the Dining Service at FIU.

2. WHAT IS THE MOST EXCITING PART OF YOUR JOB?
   The interaction with people. I love to talk. I enjoy talking to people. I meet everyone, students, faculty, employees – I’m always talking to my colleagues.

3. IF THERE IS A CELEBRITY THAT MAKES YOU TURN THE CHANNEL IMMEDIATELY, WHO IS IT AND WHY?
   Paris Hilton. She just doesn’t do anything for me. She’s a celebrity with no purpose and no background. I wouldn’t even watch to see what trash comes out of her mouth.

4. IF YOU COULD SWITCH PLACES WITH ANYONE FROM THE PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?
   I would probably want to be an artist. Toulouse Lautrec is one of my favorites. I’d love to have that drive; I love art. It’s hard to express yourself through art, but when you capture it like that — It’s just amazing. Toulouse or Picasso ... I love everything, from Mooshe to abstract, to pointillism ... Any medium is just great.

5. WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THIS YEAR’S OSCARS?
   I think sometimes the Oscars are overrated. It’s all about popularity. I love to watch to see who wins and all, but there are so many other movies and actors out there that don’t get enough recognition. I think the people who win aren’t always the most exceptional. But it’s fun to watch, to see what people are wearing. All of that.

- Compiled by Amanda Healy

Know an interesting professor? Does your friend have a cool campus job? Then recommend them for this section feature by e-mailing beaconlife@yahoo.com

Look for the Life! 5 feature every Monday issue.
Underground party encourages a release of inhibitions

From FETISH, page 6

because I don’t think it’s right for people to be throwing their sexuality out there like that,” said freshman Cristina Xuarez.

Are fetish parties really just all about sex and handcuffs? And who really goes to these parties anyway?

At times, it’s not only those who like leather and lace, but also those with more extreme tastes.

“I go because it feels like Halloween,” said senior Daniel Casal. “The people are a lot nicer and they’re really cool people too … and I like to lick lobsters.”

Typically, the people who go to fetish parties could be anyone. Partiers come to explore their wilder sides and are encouraged to let go of their inhibitions; the dress code enforces that in a way.

“The fetish parties encourage you to really go all out. The people here have some really cool outfits and I got to wear something I would never wear to any other party,” said freshman Isabela Derocha, while tightening her leather jacket around her lace corset before a party.

No cameras are allowed, which helps keep the partiers free from worrying about who might see them there.

“If I ran into my boss [at a fetish party], it’d be kind of awkward at first but then he would be dressed in leather too, so it would just be pretty funny and cool at the same time,” Derocha said.

The fetish partiers go for all kinds of reasons. Some people like the atmosphere, others like the thrill of meeting a complete stranger who shares the same interest as you.

Ironically, by going to a party that commands certain attire, some find that it’s possible to have a good time without worrying how crazy you might look to other people. You can strap on your leather boots, adjust the electrical tape on your nipples and go out with your friends. Like any scene, however, it may not be for everyone.

As the lights flip on and the music fades out, the dance floor slowly empties out into the parking lot. A sexy voice over the loudspeaker thanks everyone for coming and flyers are passed around to announce the date and location of the next fetish party as people leave the discotheque. In a month, it all starts over again.

For information on where and when the next local fetish party will take place, visit thefetishfactory.com.
Simms, Lora, Villegas prove team has bright future

SEASON, from page 12

There were flashes of brilliance from new players, who may lead this team next season. But that is all there was – flashes. Maybe this is part of growing up.

Johnven Villegas showed us his 3-point range on occasion. Most of the time he seemed to lack offensive ability, which cost this struggling offensive team more than anything.

Though he may have had a good year shooting from beyond the arc, it seemed like, when he stepped inside the arc, he was allergic to the basket. Incredibly enough, for a guy who shot on 74 3-pointers at 38 percent, he was a lowly 50 percent from the free-throw line.

Freshman Elvis Lora was another conundrum. He, too, had flashes, like Villegas, of a player who could pick up the offensive slack. A two-minute flicker in the season’s final game proved that. Too little too late – the story of this team’s season.

Inconsistency every night really cost this team. If one important player showed up, the other didn’t. That’s no way to win games, and they didn’t when it counted – finishing with just four wins out of 14 Sun Belt matches.

The most common trend was their ability to come out flat most nights, struggling to score points in the first 10 minutes of play and falling drastically behind by the first half or early on in the second half. On certain occasions, the team would make a big second half run, but most times it was too little too late.

When the games were close, however, it was the free throw shooting that let them down. FIU would miss free throws when it counted as other teams would make them. Too many of this season’s losses came apart at the end of the game, because of a lack of killer instinct – the ability to put teams away when the chance is given to you.

Fingers can be pointed in many directions here. The coaches or the inexperience of the players. The offensive struggles of this team were what really spoiled everything.

Next season it will be tough for this team to fill the void left by Almonte. They have a player in Kenny Simms who, with maturity, could be that next star.

Simms has shown he can score, rebound, and block shots – the three things you want from an ideal big man.

If Simms can find that maturity, if Lora can find the willingness to put the team on his scoring shoulders, and if Villegas can be that 3-point threat, this team has a bright future.

However, that’s what was said last season about this year’s team.

Maybe it’s better to keep expectations low. It’s harder to be disappointed.
WBC’s level playing field prevents USA dominance

before the start of the regular season. This has to be the most ridiculous excuse when you think of baseball players’ recent injuries. A little over two years ago, Aaron Boone nearly broke his knee in half playing a pickup basketball game; Jeff Kent hurt himself riding a motorcycle and I got my foot caught in the door and was not 100 percent for a critical pingpong match that awaited me.

The point is, injuries happen no matter what the situation. Besides, what are these players doing in March. Aren’t they playing baseball?

USA Manager Buck Martinez has done a great job rotating his players and not overworking his pitchers so that injuries are very unlikely.

TIMING IS PERFECT

Another thing the richest babies in the world complained about was the timing for the event. I feel the timing could not have been any better. There were only two different alternatives to holding the tournament during spring training. Either hosting it after the regular season, or throwing it right in the middle of the year.

After the wear and tear of 162 games and the playoffs, I doubt anybody would want to go overseas and start playing some more baseball. A lot more players are injured at that point and if you think a lot of people backed out at this time, imagine how many would reject their invitations in October or November.

Having it during the middle of the season is also ludicrous. The league already holds an all-star game and besides, you’re going to have Major League Baseball play eighty-some-odd games and then give it a month break?

What about the players that don’t play, you’re telling me they’re going to go back home for 30 days and come back to be in full swing for the most important part of the season!!

I think the only thing wrong with the timing is that this should have been done a long time ago.

Imagine Roberto Clemente getting a chance to represent Puerto Rico, Fernando Valenzuela playing for the Mexican team or Japanese home-run king Sadaharu Oh and Hank Aaron facing off.

The possibilities would have been endless then and they are mind-boggling now.

AN EVEN PLAYING FIELD

Unlike in 1992 when USA basketball began using NBA players for its Olympic team, the World Baseball Classic is competitive because the USA baseball team will not be as dominant over its opponents. Sure, USA has a great team, but anybody from Venezuela to the Dominican Republic to the Canadian team that defeated USA 8-6 on March 8 can win this competition.

No longer does anything inside of me say this was a bad idea. If you want to know how much of an impact it has had, just ask the players that are taking part. Chipper Jones told ESPN after he hit a homerun in an exhibition game, “it was the single greatest moment in my life to hit a homerun with the USA jersey on and have Ken Griffey Jr. waiting for me at home plate.”

“I’ve played in a lot of playoff games and a World Series and I have never been as nervous as I was [March 7],” said Boston Red Sox reliever Mike Timlin before USA’s game against Mexico.

The owners and the players that shied away from it can try to dispel it all they want but this thing actually means something. At a level it never has before, baseball is serving as the driving force to unite a world split by terrorism, government and religion.

The only common ground they share is the wonderful game of baseball, and for one special month this spring, it’s all they’ll need.
Freshman believes team can reach College World Series

Even though some players have trouble adapting to their new team and its environment when they first arrive, the 5-10 freshman said it was very easy. However, there are still some aspects of the game that he is familiarizing himself with.

“The speed of the game is really fast and I’m still adjusting to it,” Alfonso said.

“Every day I learn something new,” Price added. “He’s going to make freshman mistakes, but his consistency is getting better.”

Although many players get discouraged from some of their mistakes, Alfonso knows that he has his teammates and coaching staff to help him grow.

“They constantly push me to be a better player and to learn from my mistakes,” Alfonso said.

Besides having his teammates and coaches persistently encourage him to improve, Alfonso also plays by professional advice given to him regarding the attitude toward the game.

“I talk to some of the guys in the minors and they say that you really have to love it [baseball] to stick with it for so long and to get far,” Alfonso said.

Giving his all in every game, Alfonso has the potential to become a very successful player.

“His work ethic is what makes him [the player that he is] and what will help him [become a better player],” Price said.

Although the season and his career have only started, Alfonso has set certain goals for himself that he hopes to attain prior to leaving FIU.

Becoming an overall better player is one of his main goals; however, playing in the postseason is what he is striving for.

“My main goal is to get far. I constantly think about the [College] World Series. I know we can definitely reach it.”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sigma Alpha Lambda, a national leadership and honors organization is seeking motivated and qualified students to establish a chapter on campus as it founding members and officers. Contact: Rminer@salhonors.org

SPORTS

Are you a huge sports fan? Then the sports section is the place for you. Write for us! Stop by our offices in GC 210 or WUC 124 to apply!
World Baseball Classic great for everyone

BY ALDEN GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

I must admit, when the proposal for a worldwide baseball tournament featuring Major League Baseball players joining their respective countries in March came out, I was a bit skeptical. Then again, anything that MLB Commissioner Bud Selig draws up brings a divergent of the tournament, must've gotten chills when he saw his Yankee fans decorated stadiums all over the world with painted faces — and flags waving, I was sucked into the proposal.

On one part, it was the prospect of Major League Baseball play for a worldwide baseball tournament coming out, I was a bit skeptical. March came out, I was a bit skeptical. But then again, anything that MLB Commissioner Bud Selig draws up brings a professional sport dominated by money can bring, the World Baseball Classic brings a diversion from the evil sport dominated by money can bring, the World Baseball Classic brings a diversion from the evil sport dominated by money can bring, the World Baseball Classic brings a diversion from the evil sport dominated by money can bring, the World Baseball Classic brings a diversion from the evil sport dominated by money can bring.

Today, the tournaments' format, rules, and governance are all transparent, and the games are played in front of huge crowds around the world. The World Baseball Classic has become one of the most popular sporting events globally, and its success is a testament to the appeal of baseball on a worldwide level.

The World Baseball Classic has become a platform for international baseball, showcasing the sport's global potential and providing a level playing field for teams from around the world. It has given rise to talented players who have gone on to shine in Major League Baseball, elevating the sport's profile worldwide.

The World Baseball Classic has also served as a bridge between countries, fostering international relations and cultural exchange. Its success is a reflection of the sport's universal appeal, with baseball fans from different backgrounds coming together to enjoy the game and celebrate their shared passion.

In conclusion, the World Baseball Classic is a testament to the sport's global impact, providing a platform for international teams to compete at the highest level, while also promoting sportsmanship, international relations, and cultural exchange. Its success is a true reflection of baseball's universal appeal and its ability to bring people together across borders.