The Beacon, April 13, 2006

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Okoye looking forward to vice president role

BY ANA SANCHEZ
News Editor

After serving as Student Organizations Council vice president this past year and being actively involved in 10 different organizations in her tenure at FIU, Providence Okoye twirled on to take on a new role.

She will join Representative-at-Large Alfonso Leon, (newly elected Student Government Association vice president) in SGA to fulfill the duties of a vice president. Leon and Okoye were announced SGA president and vice president April 6.

The Beacon recently interviewed Okoye on her goals and new responsibilities as SGA vice president.

Q: What thoughts ran through your head when Leon asked you to run as vice president?

Well, I was excited but humbled to know that he thought me worthy to be a counterpart in this venture with him. Leon is someone I actually respect and admire. I don’t know if you ever knew him before all of this, but he is really down-to-earth and overwhelmingly friendly to his peers.

Q: What responsibilities will you have as vice president?

Most of my duties, as expressed in our constitution, entail fulfilling the responsibilities of the president in his absence. But primarily, I will be responsible for any new ventures or special initiatives we decide to take on in our term. Also I will be working with the University’s top brass and governing councils like SOTC, Student Programming Council, Panther Rage etc. to ensure an open-line of communication.

Q: How do you and Leon complement each other?

I believe we complement each other a lot at first. There is this obvious fact of cultural differences. I’m not from this country and each day is a learning experience, Leon is from here so where I lack experience and knowledge he abounds in it. Also, I’m able to project a different view as an outsider. Another is he is very outspoken. He can conjure up ideas on how to make things better in the twinkling of an eye, new ways to do things and I love that about him. I am more of a technical kind of person, very detail-oriented and I will truly rather have someone else do all the talking, except where I have to and I just do the work. I think we complement each other really well and are a great team together. That is very important because it makes our job a little easier.

Q: What will be your biggest challenge and how do you plan to overcome it?

Right now, I can say that my biggest challenge is the fact that I have never been SGA vice-president before. I know there is a saying, “there’s always a first time for everything,” but this is one first in a first. I believe that I will overcome this challenge as I consistently learn what my duties entail and fulfill them to the best of my ability.

Career services teaches students how to ‘market themselves’

BY EDDITH SEVILLA
Contributing Writer

Matthew Yeasted, a graduate student in mass communication, is an example of how the staff at the Biscayne Bay Campus’ Career Services helps students build an airtight resume and obtain creative job-hunting ideas.

Yeasted, who heard about Career Services through a class presentation, staff members and ads posted around campus, said that students could benefit from this service.

“I would absolutely recommend it to other students,” Yeasted said. “Their help is key and their suggestions can help anyone, even those not searching for employment immediately.”

Career Services, located in the Wolfe University Center, room 255 and at the University Park Graham Center, room 230, has useful tools for students seeking a job opportunity or an internship.

According to Claudia Reich, associate director of Career Services, students receive assistance to find jobs or internships including full-time and part-time positions through Pantherlink, Career Services’ main employer database.

Filled with both local and national employers, Pantherlink offers a wide variety of job opportunities through two service levels, Basic Services and Golden Panther Services.

Employers seeking qualified candidates post job opportunities on the site. Postings are available to University students only, while sites such as Monster.com and Careerbuilder.com don’t offer exclusivity to students — giving students an edge.

Basic service level is free and students are asked to register online. However, the positions are limited because it’s not exclusive to FIU. Other universities nationwide access it also.

The Golden Panther Services level displays jobs specifically posted for FIU students therefore minimizing the competition.

The Golden Panther Services also allows students to upload up to 10 resumes — giving students the option of uploading different resumes reflecting different skills for various positions.

“When I realized the benefit in this service, I switched to Golden Panther service,” Yeasted said. “The search results are area specific and well worth the money. I’m able to find jobs in my field with greater ease and apply directly through the system. I even get notified through e-mail when jobs are posted that match my criteria.”

Golden Panther Services is accessible for a one-time fee of $20, which lasts the entire time the student is at FIU and a year after graduation. After that, the fee becomes $55.

“One of the main reasons this is done is because the person is no longer a student at FIU, which means they are no longer paying student fees,” Reich said.

The $20 charge covers the cost of uploading different resumes reflecting different skills for various positions.
Students receive interview training

From CAREER, page 1

supporting Pantherlink because it is not an FIU-based system, and the University is charged annual licensing fees. IBM, Microsoft, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency and Univision are some companies available in the Career Services database.

The staff at Career Services also prepares students from the ground by offering workshops about cover letter and resume writing and preparing for career fairs, according to Reich. Counselors at Career Services are also available to critique student resumes and to assist those who don’t have a resume.

“I think that what we try to do is to show students how to market themselves,” Reich said “It’s all about showcasing their skills.”

Because not all job interviews are held in an office, Career Services hosts a Business Etiquette Dinner. Once a year during the Fall semester to prepare students for a restaurant-style interview. Students are served a three to four course meal, while etiquette experts advise students how to get through each course.

“The whole idea is that you now get to show that future employer what you’re made out of,” Reich said. “Now you’re a professional. You will eat properly. You will order properly. You’ll make good decisions.”

One of Career Services’ largest events is the Career and Internship Fair, held every Spring semester. During the fair, companies target juniors and seniors for possible employment or students who are geared for an internship.

Among the companies that attend are Marriott, Carnival Cruise, Royal Caribbean, Walt Disney World, MTV Latin America and Hertz.

Based on past experiences with freshmen eager to find jobs, Career Services hosts the Part-Time Volunteer and Internship Fair during the Fall.

They’ve been holding the event for the past four years, according to Reich.

For additional information contact Career Services at (305) 348-2423 or (305) 919-5770 or visit http://www.fiu.edu/~career/.
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Steve Stowe '03, MS/MBA
Director of Community Affairs
Miami Heat
Democrats look to Christians for help

BY CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
Opinion Editor

As the November Congressional elections near, the United States political arena is once again preparing itself for another battle royale between Republicans and Democrats. Liberals and conservatives alike are preparing for a very decisive election in November, in which all 435 seats in the House of Representatives, 33 Senate seats up for grabs, and 36 out of, you guessed it, 50 governorships are up for election.

This election will basically determine the political orientation of both houses of congress, a big deal if you’re President George Bush and still have three more years left in your tenure as Commander-in-Chief. Both Democrat and Republican planners are hard at work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Walls, stickers – propaganda designed to do nothing more than deliver a specific message on behalf of their respective parties.

What will that message be, exactly? If recent statements by key Democratic leaders are any indication, the message that will be delivered by the Democrats this November will be taken straight out of the Good Book itself.

Speaking at a retirement party for longtime Democratic National Committee finance chair Maureen White, former President Bill Clinton gave Democrats probably the best advice they’ve gotten in years. “We don’t have to be afraid of our values,” Clinton said, delineating a message in which he said Democrats need to communicate when asked by doubtful voters what they stand for. “We believe in shared opportunities, shared responsibilities and shared participation in the community.”

Obviously in reference to the upcoming Easter Sunday holiday, Clinton reminded those present at the dinner that Democrats stand for one of the biggest staples in the New Testament, helping the poor, and that Republicans “believe in concentrated wealth and power and using ideology to divide people.”

Clinton is not the only Democrat calling on Christians values to get his point across. Former first lady Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and former President Bill Clinton (D-NY) and former Presidential candidate John Kerry (D-MA), both Senators and both likely candidates for president in 2008, have both criticized a tough, Republican backed immigration bill, claiming that the bill was inconsistent with Christian values.

Though I am curious to know exactly which Christian values Senator Clinton and Kerry are speaking of, I am more interested in knowing with whom they are consistent. In recent weeks, Democratic leaders have tried to frame their message, or at least what they call their message, using religion.

Speaking at the same fund-raiser as Clinton, former Vice President Al Gore coined a new term, calling on donors to use their “moral imagination” in dealing with environmental issues. The answer to this riddle is simple: If you can’t beat them, join them. For years, Democrats have marveled at the way the GOP can mobilize its base of staunch supporter and get them to the polls.

Medicaid healthcare cuts unacceptable

BY BEN F. BADGER JR.
Staff Writer

You know, I thought our government couldn’t go any lower than it already has. Personally, I have always believed that the government was meant to be here in order to protect and aid the people of this country, the weakest among us.

In an attempt to save money, Florida Medicaid officials have stopped paying for feeding supplements, for possibly thousands of children who suffer from cerebral palsy, have HIV, or depend on kidney dialysis to survive, healthcare officials said.

What’s the risk? Doctors say those who are completely dependent on feeding tubes connected directly to their stomach, such as those with cerebral palsy.

I cannot understand why something like food supple-

ments would be denied for such sick children - it must be a trend in Florida to starve the sick to death. Oh but I know the reason, a goal of Governor Jeb Bush was to return $1.5 to taxpayers as stated in his State of the State Address. Well Jeb I’m glad your administration found something worthy of being cut. Man, I wish our government would budget properly and stop trying to ruin lives.

Medicaid has been telling officials to instruct their patients to “blenderize” their food for those suffering from cerebral palsy. They must be insane! You cannot just “blenderize” food and put it in a feeding tube. Demands that could clog up feeding tubes and cause even greater problems than just starving.

Children are going to suffer from this disgusting decision. In fact, a 12-year-old girl who receives care from the University of Miami was hospitalized recently because Medicaid refused to pay for her formula and as a result became seriously malnourished. The girl suffers from a form of muscular dystrophy and cannot eat enough to sustain herself.

When I first read about this I was disgusted. When I read that over a million dollars was spent last year to lease luxury cars for our House Representatives I was infuriated, not to mention the hundreds of thousands more spent on gas and insurance.

That’s right, it’s a perk of being a House member; you can have a luxury car leased to you at absolutely no cost because the taxpayers take care of it.

Some defenders of the system say that leasing cars can be cheaper than reimbursing lawmakers for driving their own cars. All I can say to that is why should anyone be reimbursing them for doing their job? Plus I highly doubt that any one member of the House only uses their car for official matters. They use it for trips to the beach too. Again why should the taxpayers pay for them to do that? Don’t they already have a salary?

A spokesman for Representative Kendrick Meek said that the SUV that Meek leases came in handy after Hurricane Wilma in delivering water and ice to storm-wrecked homes, which could not have been done without the 2003 GMC Yukon. Hell, my father’s old pick-up truck is literally falling apart could do more. Any car could in fact.

My point is that our government is making radical budget cuts that harm and will harm many children throughout Florida. Rather than cut the perks of government officials. Seriously, when you make budget cuts, you cut what is not needed. The leasing of luxury cars is not needed. But, then again, why would these people get rid of their own perks?

Giving children nutritional supplements that keep them alive is needed. So in the end, sick children are going to starve to death and government officials get to drive around in luxury vehicles. Does anyone else see the problem with this?

Did this revelation upset you? Me, too. But don’t just call your Congressman about this. We can’t all call our Congressman. But at least get this issue out.

So for those of you who do not like the way our citizens of this country, rather, than make “tough and necessary” decisions.

HELP FROM ABOVE: Bill Graham shakes the hand of Rev. Billy Graham of New York. Democrats have started to approach mainstream Christians, a base usually reserved for Republicans, for support. KRK Campus
Bush’s job performance better than polls suggest

BY BRIAN O. GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

As of March 22, President George W. Bush’s approval ratings for “handling his job as a president” have dwindled down to 37 percent. That is a 10 percent decrease from March of the previous year.

With a simple glance at his poll history, you can see that Bush took three major hits resulting in his approval ratings being sent down to the furnace. The first, and most prominent, was after the events of 9/11, which saw his almost 88 percent approval ratings drop more than 30 percentage points over the course of the following year and a half.

When things began to look optimistic in the ratings, the beginning of the Iraqi War sent his administration down once again to a less than stellar 53 percent approval.

But truth be told, I really do not see the point. It is clear that the reasons his approval has dropped down is due to the War on Terror and the events that have been taking place overseas. No one has mentioned the multiple tax cuts we have seen in the past six years or how our economy has been booming despite the billions taken overseas. No one has mentioned the multiple news stories; with the unemployment rate at 4.8 percent, the lowest it’s been arguably the best it has been for the war has caused this country.

The War on Terror and attacks from the liberal media have no small part in his approval ratings that seem to keep dropping month by month, while New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin and Gov. Kathleen Blanco get by with a slap on the hand.

You better be damn sure that if something like that ever happened in Florida, Gov. Jeb Bush would be pinned to the wall by the press and slaughtered by the media. With all this going on, is there a chance that Democrats will be able to use the low ratings to get back some power in upcoming elections, including the presidential race in 2008?

Yes, Bush’s approval ratings are in the slump. Yes Bush has failed in a few places in his career, we all have. But I don’t think every single person that voted gave a complete opinion or full thought of his or her vote. Honestly, how can you vote on the way he handles his job if it covers so many problems domestically and internationally? I doubt there is anyone that disagrees or agrees with everything Bush has done in six years. But I wouldn’t sweat it.

CNN, ABC, FOX, NBC and other local and national news stations have been trying to explain why his approval ratings are shooting down and thinking of ways he can bring them back up again.

He’s not eligible for reelection. If I were him, I would do what I think is right for my country, and let FOX worry about his approval ratings.

As of March 22, President Bush’s approval ratings have dropped 10 percent since March of last year. KRT/Congress

LOSING THE FAITH: President Bush’s approval ratings have dropped 10 percent since March of last year. KRT/Congress

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Do you think Internet voting is a good idea to increase voter turnout in the SGA elections?

• Yes - I don’t have time to vote but I’d still like to be able to have a part in picking a candidate.
• No – It is not safe enough and would make it easier to manipulate the votes.
• Either way people won’t vote.

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WINNER & LOSER

WINNER

Belgian children: An organization in the country is encouraging kids to drink light ale instead of soft drinks because it is healthier.

 LOSER

Venuxian: A European spacecraft went into Orbit around Venus April 11. It will study the permanent hurricanes around the planet and why FEMA’s response to them came so late.

QUOTATION NATION

“Their help is amazing and their suggestions can help anyone, even those not searching for employment immediately.”
– Matthew Yeasted, mass communication graduate student, on FIU career services offering interview training.

“We want to live without hiding, without fear. We have to speak so that our voices are listened to and we are taken into account.” – Ruben Arita, illegal immigrant who took part in a demonstration in the nation’s capital on April 10. Demonstrations took place in some other cities as well.

“Because we haven’t found our deceased. Being honest with you, in my opinion, they forgot about us.” – Wanda Jackson, New Orleans resident, on family members that still have yet to be located.

“I’m a police officer, but I’ve never felt safer than when I was in a patrol car with my mentor.” – hashing out the facts, police chief, on the police department’s decision to videotape police interrogations of suspects in crimes that carry a penalty of life without the possibility of parole.

“Because we haven’t found our deceased. Being honest with you, in my opinion, they forgot about us.”
– Ruben Arita, illegal immigrant who took part in a demonstration in the nation’s capital on April 10. Demonstrations took place in some other cities as well.

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Thirty years ago, FIU’s Children’s Creative Learning Center consisted of a tree and a trailer divided into three small classrooms.

Today, although the tree and trailer still stand, Assistant Black Box theatre you will be transported into a dark alley. As you reach your seat, you’ll find yourself surrounded by all sorts of characters, from a prostitute who has trouble staying on her feet while she sorts of characters, from a prostitute who has trouble staying on her feet while she sorts of characters, and barely notices the danger around her. Darlene (Lisa LaGrande), a young girl full of illusions who just moved to New York, is one of the rest of the characters than we think: the overlapping conversations between prostitutes, pimps and drug dealers. In the middle of this confusion, lighting is strategically used at points to focus the viewer’s attention to a particular character. There are 24 characters in total, but the main plot is centered around Joe (David Solomon), a potential drug dealer, and Darlene (Lisa LaGrande), a young girl full of illusions who just moved to New York and barely notices the danger around her. They have a short romance and Darlene seems to bring hope to Joe, although not too arrived to New York full of illusions, yet their dreams faded as they confronted the injustices of the real world. Darlene’s closing line “Are we even moving?” made me wonder the role of these people in our society.

One of the best performances is found in Darlene’s closing line “Are we even moving?” made me wonder the role of these people in our society.

The result of CCLC’s approach seems to be a resounding success according to all involved. “I couldn’t have picked a better place,” said Krishnamurthy Suryakar, professor in the School of Accounting, whose son had turned down a 2-year-old school that day. He sees his son’s satisfaction as the best indicator of the program’s performance. “He’s consistently very happy; happy to come in the morning and reluctant to leave.”

The teachers also make time to visit their former students. Kirsch recounts her recent trip to see a 16-year-old graduate perform in a rodeo while showing off the myriad photographs on display throughout the halls. “The fact that they’re still connected to their preschool is really special,” Kirsch said.

Kirsch looks forward to the upcoming celebration of CCLC’s 30th anniversary, a series of ceremonies and activities that will take place in the Graham Center May 6. She expects to see several generations of caregivers and students come together to honor their common foundation.

The program is packed with second generation enrollees, children of former volunteers, and students turned teachers. “The tone is different,” Kirsch said as a child sought a hug from her arms. “Continuity of care is a high priority.”

Parent involvement is encouraged through family picnics and workshops that explain what and how the children learn.

Kirsch’s only worry is that there are FIU students with children who aren’t taking advantage of their offered services. “As a division of Student Affairs, we’re closely linked to Campus Life. We’re a part of the [FIU] experience.”

Children of FIU students are given priority over all other applicants, and those eligible for a Pell Grant, who are taking at least 9 credit hours, and have a dependent child of the appropriate age can collect on substantial discounted rates courtesy of the CCFUNDS grant.

Although Balm in Gilead has a comedic tone, I soon realized the play carries a more serious message. As the characters reveal more about their stories, I realized Darlene has more in common with the rest of the characters than we think: they too arrived to New York full of illusions, yet their dreams faded as they confronted the injustices of the real world. Darlene’s closing line “Are we even moving?” made me wonder the role of these people in our society.
by jose de wit

Whether you are a fan of Ani DiFranco or you have never even heard of her, you should go out and buy her new live album immediately. This statement might seem a bit strong, but this album is seriously that good.

Those who are not familiar with Ani DiFranco should know she has a reputation for being a feminist’s feminist. For most who are casually familiar with DiFranco, but have not really had the chance to get into her work, she tends to conjure images of butch lesbians and angry gender shavers heads and unshaven legs, man-hating feminism, women with a large following among women with lesbian fan base, though DiFranco has confirmed in interviews that she is bisexual.

DiFranco has matured and so have her ideas, thoughts, and feelings. Yes, she still writes lyrics so feminist they could make a grown man ovulate, but feminism is the key word here, rather than feminist. DiFranco is no longer the angry little girl who ran away from home at 14 to write music to vent the resentment and rage she harbored inside; she’s grown into a sensitive, deep-feeling woman whose words resound with depth and empathy.

Healing, change and forgiveness are resounding themes throughout her newer songs (though she hasn’t lost the edgy, clever wit that makes her songs so fun to listen to). At the same time, growing up has rejuvenated DiFranco in a way. Where her demeanor smacked of jaded anger in the past, she now exudes a candor and authenticity that is immediately endearing.

This is evident from the very first few seconds of the first track, when she salutes her audience with an earnest “Hi ...,” and carries on throughout the album. At times, she seems so genuine and friendly that you just want to jump into the speakers and give her a great, big hug.

All this is not to say that her songs have become cheery and sappy. Her songs still address difficult topics such as family dysfunction, failed relationships and, especially on this album, political and social issues.

In fact, the album builds up gradually to culminate with two long-form poems that deal with the events that took place on 9/11 and the emotions that surround it. This makes the performance particularly intimate, given the setting and the timing of the set.

The album was recorded during a live set in Carnegie Hall in New York City, only months after the terrorist attacks.

Her performance of these two poems, which goes from spoken-word to full-blown rocking out

See DIFRANCO, page 8

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BY JOSE DE WIT
Copy Editor

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Feminist DiFranco expresses herself through edgy, clever wit

The Beacon – April 13, 2006
Emotional, soaring lyrics go far
From DIFRANCO, page 7
and back again, rising to a shout and descending to a whisper, is exhilarating, like a modern-day Patti Smith, and it conveys the full emotional range of the lyrics perfectly.

The emotional beauty and depth of the songs on this album are fantastic, but without the music they accompany, they would probably be better suited to the pages of a book.

It is DiFranco’s musical performance that makes these songs truly breathtaking. She has a stupendous voice and is great on the guitar and she makes her songs work by exploiting those talents.

To listen to her sing with soothing tenderness accompanied by spidery chords on the guitar is just as lovely as experiencing her soaring vocal acrobatics and emphatic, percussive chords is exciting.

Overall, Solo – Carnegie Hall 04.06.02 is an almost flawless album.

CARNEGIE HALL
4.6.02
4 out of 4 stars

Artist: Ani DiFranco
Released: April 4, 2006
Genre: Alternative rock / contemporary folk

Costumes recreate original feel
From BALM, page 6
In Darlene’s monologue. Other smaller roles to take note of are that of Dopey (Zee Garcia), a homeless man who, although is one of the most repulsive characters, is the wittiest one, David (Hess Wesley), a transvestite, Ann (Elizabeth Ferrer), a prostitute, and Fick (Matthew Mur) the overall invisible “can I have a cigarette” guy.

The costume design by Marina Pareja and Courtney Just is exceptional, making the characters look frighteningly real. The scenic design by Amanda Pareja looks authentic as well.

Balm in Gilead will be showing through April 16, Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are $8 for FIU students and $10 for general admission, and can be purchased at the box office. For more information call the Box Office at 305-348-3789.

Balm in Gilead
3.5 out of 4 stars
Directed by: Wayne E. Robinson
Written by: Lanford Wilson

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The Gamekillers OBITUARIES April 2006

Game Killed

Andre Massis
Fernando Nieves
Zack Danielson

Eric Smith
Hanwey Sheih
Bharat Kumar

Jon Fox
Chad Utsch

HANDED TO him. Upon returning from the
bathroom, Zack found the girl he was
seeing had been surrounded by a beefy
mesomorph, Early Man, who tried to use
his abundant muscle to strangle him out
of the picture. Zack did not keep
his cool and accused his young lady
friend of flirting with the first guy who
came along. His girl, no doubt disgusted
by Zack’s over-the-top bravado, fled
the scene when he first from a far more
terrible jealousy escalated into Zack throwing
a punch, which was caught in mid-air
by something that looked like a hand, but
felt like a 20lb vice. By the time Zack
regained consciousness, he was home
alone and unable to console himself with
his dominant hand.

SHIETHANWEY, Los Angeles, CA
Hanwei was chatting up a Latin diva
at an apartment complex barbecue
and his game was hot enough to pose a fire
hazard, as that is his friend and cocoon
of horror known as The Mess entered the
picture and snatched Hanwei up like a
flash flood of distraction. Somewhat of
a loose cannon, The Mess immediately
engaged Hanwei in the age-old male
bonding tradition of lighting one’s own
farts. Sure, there’s little more enticing than
the ignition of one’s own combustible
human gasses, but much like riding an
electric scooter, you don’t look that cool
doing it. When the laughter subsided,
Hanwei was left with nothing but a
good laugh and the faint smell of old
eggs, while his lady was snared by a
new sutor. Man, talk about blowing it.

KUMAR Bharat, Jacksonville, FL
After kicking his game to a leggy
redhead at a dorm mixer, Bharat was
interrupted by Trevor, a.k.a. British
Accent Guy. Women are drawn to men
with British accents, so all it took was a
single “pardon” to make his girl raise
an eyebrow toward this game killing
Redhead. This prompted Bharat to get
rid of by calling out the guy’s busted grill
of yellowing bad teeth and comparing
the merits of baseball over cricket. The
British Accent Guy smiled and opened
his mouth only to offer small bits of
non-confrontational banter, allowing his
accent to seep into the girl’s brain like a
piece of brilliant propaganda. In the end,
the Brit would invade on Bharat’s territory
with ease, taking the girl, and leaving
Bharat’s game strewn on the road as a
piece of collateral damage.

SMITH Eric, Washington, DC
His game came to its demise in the
most unlikely of circumstances. While
engaging in two of his most pleasurable
pastimes: talking about boats, with his
other passion, a beautiful girl who seemed
genuinely interested. They were even
planning to go out in his 15-foot dingly,
only to hit unseen rocks in the form of The
One Upper, the classic Gamekiller who
lives by the motto “Anything you can do
I can do better.” Sure enough, The One
Upper claimed to not only know boats,
but he also boasted of captaining his
own 40-foot vessel. Eric tried to navigate
to the calmer waters of car talk but was
run over again by The One Upper’s
supposed vintage German roadster. The
tension quickly mounted, and soon the
two were engaged in a ruthless game
of one-upmanship. On and on they went,
seeing what the other guy just said and
raising him. When the smoke cleared,
Eric had won the gloveset, but the girl
was nowhere to be found. No one likes
a bragging Eric’s game was last seen
drifting away towards the vast sea of
loneliness in an undersized boat.

FOX Jon, London, UK
Jon’s game, beloved to many a
cheerleader and facilitator of the
menage of 2003, was fairing well at a
Gold Coast club with a delightful pair of
sisters. That is until the playboy predator
and full-time Gamekiller simply known as
Kash Munni entered the picture. A well-
endowed socialite famous for trashin
5-star hotel rooms, Kash had traveled in
from all rich lands wearing expensive
Italian loafers and indoor sunglasses. Drinks were bought for willing and
unwilling recipients alike with his family’s
fortune, which he shamelessly flaunted
in the form of an array of high status plastic.
This caused Jon to suddenly lose his cool
and go on the defensive by opening a
tab of his own. On his debit card. After
three rounds, Jon’s account was maxed.
Shortly after he was dropped off alone
would join him the hard way that
a woman’s affection should never be for
sale, and that many a man has gone
broken trying to prove otherwise.

UTCH Chad, New Brunswick, NJ
His game was faring nicely at the
local coffee shop with a seemingly
receptive late drinker called Rita and
he seemed well on his way to a
little afternoon delight, that is until
the corduroy-clad Gamekiller known as “IQ”
entered picture. This pompous scholastic
scavenger, famous for luring men into
heated debates on subjects of which
they know nothing, overheard the
conversation turning to art and punched.
Immediately he steered the dialogue
into a known area as Out Of Chad’s Depth
where he would dish out ever increasing portions of intellectual emasculation.
Chad reacted as anyone with a 20
point IQ deficit facing “IQ” would:
the wrong way. No, the answer to “When
do you feel Picasso peaked?” isn’t to
shave the questioner in the chest. Rita
was left to apologize emphatically for
Chad’s actions and asked if she could
make up for it in some way. Chad tried
to recover, but it was too late. He had
lost his cool, and his game would
retire home, where it would begin its
own blue period.

Obituaries can be created and sent
via email to friends at gamekillers.com

Keep Your Cool. Axe Dry.
SPORTS

CONFERENCE: The baseball team dropped two games of a three-game series against Sun Belt Conference foe South Alabama April 7-9 in Mobile, Ala. The Golden Panthers are currently in second place in the conference with a 6-3 record (25-13 overall).

Ben Wen/USA Vanguard

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on their beloved Sharapova, rallying behind the equally gorgeous Golovin.

Golovin won a second set tie-breaker and had a break point at 3-4 in the deciding set when the unthinkable happened. After clawing her way back from the brink of defeat, Golovin rolled her left ankle while lunging for a forehand. She writhed in pain for seven minutes on the court before bravely resuming play. But with tears dripping down her eyes, Golovin hobbled toward the net after one forehand return. She won the hearts of thousands of fans – and at least one ballboy – but conceded the match when she shook Sharapova’s hand.

I carried Golovin’s racket bag to the locker room, leading the way for her and Sharapova off of the court. With ESPN2 cameras capturing our exit, commentators Cliff Drysdale and Mary Joe Fernandez criticized Sharapova for not checking on Golovin’s condition.

But no cameras were rolling in the hallway when I saw Sharapova grab hold of Golovin’s left arm and guide her to the locker room. Showing no hard feelings, Golovin laughed through her tears and said, “Thanks Maria.”

I worked the men’s final between Federer and Ivan Ljubicic, and what a final it was. Ljubicic outaced Federer 21 to eight and hit 44 winners to Federer’s 36, good enough to force three tiebreakers against the World’s No. 1 Player.

Tie-breakers can sometimes be chaotic for ballboys, with balls quickly moving from one side of the court to the other. Though I was hard at work, it was clear to see Federer’s greatness shine through when it mattered most.

At 3-3 in the first set tie-breaker, Federer yelled “WOO!” when he mishit a backhand well long. Then he won four of the next five points, finishing the first set with an ace.

Federer quickly trailed Ljubicic 4-1 in the second set tiebreaker, but behind the strength of his ferocious forehand he won the final six points to take a two-set lead.

Finally, Ljubicic earned a set point at 6-5 in the third set tiebreaker. Federer quickly erased that with two monster first serves to reach championship point.

Looking on from the net, I thought Ljubicic hit a great serve out wide as Federer stretched for the backhand return. The ball didn’t look like it would clear the net, but it nipped the top of the tape and dribbled onto Ljubicic’s side.

Federer won his second straight NASDAQ-100 Open title on a let cord, earning $533,350 along the way. That’s $533,350 more than the 400 ballpeople made combined. But you won’t hear us complain.

A tournament record 272,033 fans paid to attend NASDAQ, but we weren’t among them. We shared the court with the greatest athletes in the world and we didn’t pay a dime to do it.

Now that’s priceless.
MEAN STREAK: Nicolas Kiefer is not known for his niceness toward ballboys. Kiefer was eliminated by Roger Federer in the quarterfinals of the NASDAQ-100.

KRT CAMPUS

Women’s softball sweep conference for North Texas

BY PATRICK JORDAN
Contributing Writer

Things are clicking for the Golden Panthers at the right time as they improved their record to 3-0 in the Sun Belt Conference after completing a three game sweep against North Texas April 9 in a 3-1 victory, which brought the Golden Panthers overall record to 20-21.

Behind a dominating pitching performance by red shirt freshman Sarah Belanger, the women of North Texas never stood a chance and Belanger reaped the benefits as her performance helped her capture her third Sun Belt Softball Pitcher of the Week Award in three game sweep against North Texas.

"We’ve come together and we’re learning how to play as a team," said junior outfielder and captain Deonni Murray. "I honestly believe we have a chance to win the conference. If we can do that, then we have a good chance of doing well in regionals."

The Golden Panthers will look to continue their dominant play as they go on the road to play Louisiana Lafayette April 14-15.

FIU 3, NT 1

Coming into the championship game April 9, the Golden Panthers were filled with confidence as they were coming off a two game sweep against North Texas the day before. Due to solid pitching by both Belanger and Eastman, the women of North Texas were only able to score once in the two games combined, striking out 15 times and combining to hit just 10-52 in the first two games.

North Texas attempted to turn things around in the championship game and they looked to jump out to a fast start when junior Susan Waters hit a double at the top of the first inning to give the Mean Green a little momentum. That momentum was short lived however, as Waters was called out at base third for a force out at home and Belanger was safe at second for the first out. An error by second baseman Kelly Ragan allowed Belanger to score on the play and she was out two batters later as the Golden Panthers took a 2-0 lead into the bottom of the inning.

Belanger began to get on top of the second inning as she struck out two batters and gave her teammates more confidence to step to the plate with ease and the Golden Panthers took advantage of that.

Outfielder Ashley Falk hit a single that advanced freshman Lauren Spiers to second base with two outs at the bottom of the second inning. This proved to be a spark as Spiers scored later in the inning on an error by first baseman Monica Garcia, making the score 3-0 FIU.

Things only got better for the Golden Panthers as Murray began the bottom of the third inning with a single and second baseman Tracey Deleon’s successful bunt advanced Murray to second base with one out. A pop-up by Tabitha Embry resulted in a second out, but freshman Kim Rodriguez’s single scored Murray on Belanger’s assault as she continued to strike out one batter after another, frustrating the Mean Green and adding to FIU’s home-field dominance.

The bottom of the fourth inning produced another run as Jennifer Powell’s double advanced Katie Bell home and making it 3-0 and seemingly closing the window of opportunity for North Texas even though they were only down by three runs.

A sixth inning homerun by North Texas infielder Susan Waters provided a glimmer of hope, making the score 3-1 FIU, but that’s as close as they got as Belanger continued her magnificent pitching, striking out 12 in her 11th complete game of the season to improve her record to 11-0.

"She’s amazing and when she’s in the zone, everybody better watch out," said Murray on Belanger’s performance.

With the victory and three game sweep of North Texas, the Golden Panthers improved their all time record against North Texas to 11-0.

Women’s softball sweeps conference for North Texas

BY JOSHUA REY
Staff Writer

Part two of a two-part series

Wearing my orange-and-blue Flia outift for the sixth time in seven days, I was extremely tired on March 26. But when Stadium Court comes calling, a NASDAQ-100 Open ballboy would be crazy to sleep in.

Sensational Gyotiro Marcos Baghdatis stormed through the first set of his match against No. 5 seed Nikolay Davydenko, hitting the fastest forehands I’ve ever seen.

But Davydenko was unfazed and stepped up his game. When Baghdatis hit a drop shot, Davydenko responded with one of his own. At full speed, Baghdatis was unable to retrieve the ball and barely missed a head-on collision with me at the net. As Baghdatis raced towards me, he had a big grin on his face and looked into my eyes as if to say, “That shot was too good.”

Fans groaned when Baghdatis double faulted three times in the final game to concede the match 2-6, 6-2, 7-6. But something tells me they’ll be back when Baghdatis makes his return in 2007.

I had March 28 off and spent the day watching tennis. I’m glad I was in the front row, and not on the court, for the Nicolas Kiefer/Agustin Calleri match.

Widely recognized among ballpeople as the biggest prick in tennis, Kiefer approached a rookie ballboy for his towel as if to say, “Hey, kid, throw me a ball.” He then stuck his racket out as a sign for the ballboy to place a ball on the strings. But the ballboy didn’t know what Kiefer wanted and grabbed the racket with his left hand.

“Are you f—— kidding me?” Kiefer said, staring deep into the ballboy’s eyes. The coach Sasha Nenel was laughing hystericly but Calleri got the last laugh, knocking Kiefer out of Key Biscayne.

Leading off the night session March 30 was a quarterfinal showdown between Roger Federer and James Blake. This was a much-anticipated match, not just because both players are exciting but also because they are gentlemen.

Federer always says “Please” and “Thank you” when asking for water and Blake thanks ballboys each time they toss him a ball. That’s a welcome change from the response we get from players like Kiefer.

Up a set and 2-0, Federer hit a shot that’s still replaying in my head.

Working near the net, I saw Blake leap high in the air for an overhead smash. He absolutely crushed the ball, but with the grace of a dancer, Federer transferred his weight from his right foot to his left foot and blocked the ball with a backhand past a shocked Blake.

I quickly glanced at every other ballboy on the court. All our jaws had dropped. Federer is just plain sick.

Needless to say, he went on for the 7-6, 6-2 win. But the night’s excitement had only begun.

Maria Sharapova was beating Tatiana Golovin 6-3, 4-1 in a semfinal between 18-year-olds, with Golovin due to serve. But the Frenchwoman came out of the changeroove ready to return, bouncing at the baseline with her back to the ballboys.

The chair umpire had to point her finger to Golovin to realize she was serving. Golovin lost the game and looked des- tined for defeat.

Sharapova had four match points at 5-3, but Golovin outlasted the Russian in a series of furious rallies and broke her serve.

Then Sharapova took a bathroom break to the loud jeers of the crowd. I couldn’t believe my ears. A stadium full of drunk and rowdy young men had turned to