Nursing student fatally shot by brother

REUBEN PEREIRA  Asst. News Director

Damarys Blanco was a regular teen. She went to parties and night clubs with her friends and wanted to pursue a degree in Nursing at FIU.

To the shock of friends and family, her body was found along

Department SWAT. They were able to enter the Southwest Miami-Dade home where Damarys Blanco, 19, was found shot and killed.

Vanessa Reyes, Blanco’s aunt, remembered Damarys Blanco as someone who was very family oriented and helpful to others.

“She was very bright. She was very happy, very social, and dynamic; she was always very lively,” Reyes, a hairdresser at University Park’s Santi’s Unisex Hair and Nail Salon, told The Beacon.

According to The Miami Herald, neighbors of the Blanco household heard strange noises resembling gunshots Sept. 19 and Sept. 20.

“It was like thunder,” Ana Vallez said in that article. “I knew something bad was happening inside.”

Despite suspecting foul play, no one notified the police until Sept. 21.

Freddie Blanco was manic-depressive and wasn’t taken seriously by many, according to Evelin Suarez, a friend of Damarys Blanco since high school.

“He was always online, only playing video games and wasn’t very social,” Suarez told The Beacon. “He was so quiet that

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SGA creates window painting guidelines

IAN NATHANIEL COHEN  Staff Writer

Student Government Affairs recently passed Resolution 06-06 in order to set some guidelines and regulations with regards to the windows in FIU’s Graham Center which serve as a canvas for advertisements of upcoming events.

“It’s a good way to market, because it’s something that students can always see, and it’s cheap,” said Alfonso “Alfie” Leon, president of Student Government Affairs.

“It’s free for students to do this.”

Resolution 06-06, which was unanimously passed by representatives of SGA Sept. 6, states that all FIU organizations, such as Campus Life, Panther Rage and the Student Organizations Council, are permitted to use the glass surfaces and windows on the first floor of GC to advertise upcoming events and programs to students in an attempt to “promote co-curriculum education through student programming and involvement.”

Prior to this resolution, there was no system in place regulating student organizations’ use of painted advertisements in GC.

“It’s a good way for students to see just quick information,” said Rosalyn Delgado, SPC Concerts Committee co-chair. “For MTVU, we had a couple of students come in looking for tickets, and saying they had found out about the concert and knew where to find the tickets because they saw our window paintings.”

The resolution, a result of collaboration between GC and SGA, places restrictions such as how long paintings can remain posted. According to the new rules, student organizations must reserve space through GC’s main office, and all advertising must be removed within 24 hours after the end date or face a fine, the amount of which will be determined by the GC.
U.S. soldier killed in helicopter crash

Chief Warrant Officer Timothy R. Breneman, a soldier from Ormond Beach, was one of two Americans killed when a U.S. helicopter crashed during a routine training in southern Germany, according to Army officials.

Breneman, 36, was the pilot in command of the AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopter that crashed Sept. 19 during night gunnery training at the Grafenwoehr Training Area. Co-pilot gunner Chief Warrant Officer Terry M. Thomas, of Baton Rouge, La., was also killed in the crash.

Both men were members of the First Armored Division’s 12th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Military officials said the crash was under investigation.

Friedman under fire for past racial slurs

Comedian, musician and independent gubernatorial candidate Kinky Friedman defended using a racial slur during a performance at a Houston nightclub 26 years ago after an audio clip of the stand-up routine was posted on the Internet.

Sixty-one-year-old Friedman said he has tried to expose and lampoon racism and was making fun of bigots when he used the n-word twice in a joke.

But state Representative and Former Chairman of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus Garnet Coleman said it’s difficult to find the humor in his joke after his remarks about Katrina evacuees in Houston in which he called them “sores” against race, color, creed, age, disability, sex, religion, marital status, national origin or veteran status, is not permitted.

“We don’t want people using this as a way to debate things,” Leon the said. “We want them to use it as a way to get students involved.”

SOG, which is the governing body for all clubs and organizations within FIU, was enthusiastic about the new regulations.

“IT think it helps benefit the clubs,” said Elie Philippe, marketing director for SOG. “It gives them a new venue to advertise their events or anything they may have going on.”

Any organization interested in using window painting to promote activities can put in a request through GC’s main office in room 1232.

Family, friends mourn deaths

According to Suarez, Freddie Blanco was sui-

cidal.

“He himself told his aunt a week and a half ago that he was going to kill himself and no one took him seri-

ously,” Suarez said.

Following the tragedy, Damarys Blanco’s Facebook and accounts were flooded with friends’ messages recounting fond memories spent with her.

“I last saw her about a couple of months ago when we went to a [dance] club,” said Suarez. “We used to have so much fun together. It’s just really hard to believe she’s no longer with us.”

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SOC club fair aims to entertain

With the academic year completing its first month, many students have been fishing around campus for different organizations and clubs to join. However, this week, students will get the opportunity to join and learn about more than 140 different clubs on campus.

Every semester, the Student Organizations Council, the governing body for every registered student club on campus, organizes a club fair to allow these student clubs to promote themselves and recruit new members. This semester’s fair, which takes place from Sept. 25-28, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Graham Center forum, will feature performances by numerous clubs, Hawaiian Hula dancers and daily pizza eating contests.

“We’re planning to promote all the clubs,” said SOC President Francys Crevier. “The council has planned entertainment for the event but the most interesting aspect is going to be the demonstrations by student clubs.”

To keep with the tradition of a regular fair, SOC Events Coordinator Anthony Munyaka and Crevier organized and planned activities such as a Limbo dancing contest and a daily Hawaiian Pizza eating contest where winners will be awarded SOC gift packets and towels.

“For this semester’s fair, we were looking for something fun to involve all the students who pass by,” said Crevier. “We’re going to be giving away SOC sandals, which has never been a giveaway before. There’s going to be hula dancing, free food and free t-shirt airbrushing.”

Clubs interested in being a part of the fair have to register with the council as soon as the dates are announced because the number of tables assigned are limited as compared to organizations.

“The clubs that get the tables are always selected on a first come, first serve basis,” Crevier said.

On Sept. 25, academic and engineering clubs such as the American Chemical Society and the Society of Physics students will get the opportunity to demonstrate the activities of their clubs.

“The chemistry and physics clubs usually have had dry ice demonstrations at previous club fairs,” Crevier said.

“During the dry ice demonstration, the clubs insert balloons into dry ice and give out frosted balloons to students.”

Social Clubs, which comprise of some of the largest clubs in the SOC get their chance to promote themselves Sept. 26.

Popular clubs such as the Black Student Union, the Caribbean Students Association, and the Indian Students Association, who usually host large scale events and parties on campus are expected to perform cultural demonstrations to students.

Wednesday, Sept. 27, will be geared to art, health and sports clubs such as the FIU Soccer Club and the Student Dance Association.

The last day of the fair, Sept. 28, will be reserved for the business, political, religious and service clubs.

Even relatively new clubs such as the FIU College Democrats, the Bowling Club and Amnesty International are encouraged to participate in the fair.

“It’s not necessary for new clubs to participate in the fair, but it is encouraged,” Munyaka said in a previous Beacon article. “It would be dumb not to do so because the fair is a great opportunity to promote and recruit.”

According to Crevier, the best thing about the club fair is many people realize that there are a lot of unique and fascinating clubs that they didn’t know existed.
Research institute hosts discussion on future of Cuba

REUBEN PEREIRA
Asst. News Director

As part of its continuing lecture series — "Between Fidel and Raúl: What’s Next For Cuba?" — the Cuban Research Institute will host "Democratic Transition in Cuba: Possibilities for Change," a panel discussion moderated by renowned academic Frank Mora Sept. 27 at University Park.

The lecture series analyzes the state of current events in Cuba.

At the event, the second in the series, Mora is expected to discuss the findings of current events in Cuba.

The first panel discussion, held Aug. 8 in the Graham Center Ballrooms at UP, was hosted by Damian Fernandez, current intern vice provost of the Biscayne Bay Campus and director of the CRI, Javier Corrales, a political science professor at Amherst College and Anthony Maimog and Lisandro Pérez, professors of sociology.

Although the certainty of events in the "Between Fidel and Raúl" series will depend on the changes in Cuba, Alma de Rojas, coordinator for the CRI, is confident that there will be more panels in the near future.

"Right now, this is the last one on our calendar but there will definitely be more," said de Rojas.

De Aragón hopes many students show up to the event although she admits that it would be hard to know for sure how many will actually attend.

"It’s always hard to know how many people will show up unless professors make students come in for extra credit," said de Aragón. "We do it at this time because it’s easier for students to come and we hope there’ll be many Cuban-American students because this affects their lives, and it gives them an understanding of their roots and community."

Founded in 1991, the CRI is the nation’s leading institute for research and academic programs on Cuban and Cuban-American issues, according to the Latin American and Caribbean Center at FIU.

The institute employs the expertise of more than 40 FIU faculty members who are spread across various different colleges of the University. The institute has also supported trips to and from Cuba by FIU faculty and students in Cuba.

Apart from the "Between Fidel and Raúl" series, de Aragón expects the CRI to host many other events throughout the year including a day-time lecture series focused mainly towards students of the University, a series focusing on the relationship between Cuba and the Caribbean and a series on political economy and Cuban politics.

"I really would like students to come to these events as they are very pertinent to our own lives in Miami," said de Aragón. "What happens in Cuba in the next few years is going to affect this University, Miami and many families who live here."
When Sabrina Gonzales, a self-proclaimed “bridezilla,” was searching for the perfect place to hold her wedding reception, the Roz and Cal Kovens Conference Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus was the last place she would ever consider.

“When you hear FIU, you think ‘Ugh, I don’t want to get married on campus,’ but when you go to see the place, you understand why it’s so popular. It’s really beautiful,” she said.

The conference center is not only known for hosting corporate events. Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, theme parties, retirement parties, sweet sixteen parties, Quinces and Sweet Sixteens can also be held there.

“Wedding March” resonates from proms can also be held there.

The conference center requires that you do not use outside vendors, but when you go to the center, said it fit everything she requested for her wedding, but the “icing on the cake” was the view of the Biscayne Bay.

“Every window you opened had a view,” she said. “It was an amazing view.”

Elie planned the wedding with the conference center 10-months before the event was to take place.

The conference center helped Elie get in touch with a decorator, put together the candle centerpieces for the tables, and go over the budget for the wedding.

The couple decided to have their cocktail hour and reception at the conference center mainly due to the scenery it offered.

“We wanted a wedding by the water,” said Gonzales. “The view was so beautiful. It was a perfect fit.”

Gonzales and her husband had a cocktail hour for their 250 guests after the ceremony on the terrace of the conference center.

Guests were able to dine on hors d’oeuvres while listening to a flamenco guitarist as the sun set over the bay.

“Food was so good and very tasty,” she said.

The conference center boasts 5,508 square feet of wedding space, a sweeping terracotta-tiled terrace for weddings and wedding receptions, accommodations for up to 300 people and panoramic bay-views.

Couples must first draft a contract with the center prior to planning their event and give a deposit of $500. There is a separate deposit of $1,000 for catering.

The center requires of every wedding they host to use their catering service, Thierry’s Catering and Event Design.

“We have a beautiful location here and the location itself makes a beautiful venue and the perfect setting for a special occasion like a wedding,” said Seemi Ramalingam, director of conferences for the Kovens Center.

Leslie Germana Elie, who held both her wedding and reception at the center, said it fit everything she requested for her wedding, but the “icing on the cake” was the view of the Biscayne Bay.

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A gazebo decorated with red and ivory roses was constructed in front of the altar where the couple said their vows.

Elie said she would recommend the conference center to anyone who is planning a wedding, especially with treatment she received from the staff.

“Get to know them and they get inside of your heart like family,” she said.

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Retreat empowers women, stimulates intellect

If they really appreciate what we’re doing with the retreat, hopefully they will take stuff away from it and use it in their everyday lives,” Bauta said.

The Women’s Center’s goal is to empower women by providing programs that stimulate their intellectual, professional, social and emotional growth.

The creation of the Sisterhood Retreat is an extension of the services already offered by the center, such as mentoring programs, women’s forums and special interest groups, set in a more intimate, concentrated locale and without any distractions, Bauta said.

Warshaw agreed.

“We wanted to get women the women to get away from FIU in order to explore their bodies, themselves, and explore their personalities,” Warshaw said.

The retreat is currently being planned by a host of student leaders from several on-campus organizations, such as University Park student housing, the Women’s Center in both UP and Biscayne Bay Campus, Multicultural Programs and Services, the Women’s Studies Student Association, the Graduate Student Association and Stonewall.

“We want very much to integrate a creative workout with a physical workout,” Bauta said.

Sophomore Rachel Alexander is also going to be one of the leaders of the retreat.

She is not only helping to come up with icebreakers and form a menu, but she will also be an active participant, learning and growing along with every other student who attends.

“I’m looking forward to learning about myself and growing as a woman and learning about my strengths and weaknesses,” Alexander said.

The aspect of leadership is what the Women’s Center regards as central to the future success of the Sisterhood Retreat.

“The university is investing a lot in them,” Onorato said. “We want to see them give back.”

Sophomore Sarah Cadwallader is already planning on attending the Sisterhood Retreat after learning about it in her Introduction to Women’s Studies class.

Though she has never been to any of the events offered by the center, the retreat has piqued her interest.

“It seemed like an excellent opportunity to bond with your fellow sisters and have a great time,” Cadwallader said.

Bauta hopes students like Cadwallader will really take advantage of such an opportunity.

“We want students like Cadwallader to really take advantage of such an opportunity.”

Women in our society traditionally don’t have a place to develop their leadership skills, and having that time and space away from the patriarchy gives them the resources that they need to really let their power shine through,” Bauta said.
Redeploy or reinforce: two takes on the Iraq problem

The Bush Administration contends that our purpose in Iraq is to establish a democracy and that the war in Iraq is about “freedom” and “liberation.” That’s a very clever argument. Who doesn’t love freedom or democracy?

This misleading framing of the Iraq issue begs the question: What if our troops could vote on this issue? Would they want to “stay the course” in Iraq? Or do they feel their mission is “accomplished” and want to go home?

According to the most recent poll published by Zogby International back in late February, 72 percent of American troops stationed in Iraq believe that they should leave within a year. According to another recent poll conducted by the Program on International Policy Attitudes and World Public Opinion Online, 70 percent of Iraqis favor a pullout of U.S. troops within two years and 87 percent favor a timetable for withdrawal.

These findings, coupled with growing American opposition to this war, point to a growing need for this nation to redeploy its forces, in the name of our security and the popular will. Currently, there are two major Democratic plans for dealing with Iraq, as proposed by Senator Joe Biden, Delaware, and Representative John Murtha, Pennsylvania.

Biden calls for the establishment of three provinces, giving the Shiites, Kurds and Sunni partial control over each region. The Kurds in the north have long separated themselves from the rest of the country, forming their own separate society in northern Iraq, which they call Kurdistan. The rest of the country would be split between the two warring factions.

All three regions would answer to the central government, which would deal with national issues like border security and oil revenue-sharing. This plan could stabilize Iraq, and allow our troops to leave.

Murtha’s plan, which was proposed in mid-2005, calls for the “redeployment” of American troops. When this plan was first proposed, it sent shock-waves through Washington. Murtha, a former Marine colonel who served in Vietnam, has long had a reputation for being a tough-minded hawk.

After talking with several generals and pondering the Iraq issue, he proposed sending most of our troops home, while keeping a small force in the region in case trouble arises. If Al-Qaeda establishes a “terror camp” in Iraq, our troops can swoop in and take them out. If they need more people in Afghanistan, they can enter the country and assist NATO.

What’s more, the Iraqi people would be given control of their country. Rumsfeld and Bush have long been touting Iraqi security forces, claiming that we’ve trained hundreds of thousands. Let’s take them at their word, and let those forces take over. “Mission Accomplished,” you say? Great, then let’s get the hell out already.

I am not going to try and convince you that the war in Iraq has become a lost cause. Even if we try, and if we can get Iraqi politicians to work together, there may be a way out. If the United States can help bring about a political agreement, we can begin the process of withdrawal.

Biden, Nevada, and Representative John Murtha, Pennsylvania.

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The idea of writing a book is monumental in itself because it might herald fame and fortune. But for professors Lester Standiford and James W. Hall, the real joy of their art doesn’t come from the thrill of a fan recognizing their name or face on the street — it comes from the personal gratification of being able to cut a provocative story for others to read.

“I feel very fortunate to have published as many books as I have, and I think if I’m able to tell someone a good story and get them to think from time to time, then I’ve done my job,” said Standiford, who is the director of the creative writing program and an English professor.

HALL’S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Hall, an English and creative writing professor, agreed that fame is not the most rewarding part of being an author.

“The personal rewards of success are not as satisfying or nourishing as doing the work and writing the books,” he said.

The two professors have many things in common career-wise. They have written almost the same number of books, and they both like to write mystery novels, among other things. However, each professor has expressed their individual talents in different ways, and has accomplished different things that range from writing non-fiction and columns in news-annuals to writing a book.

“Some feel stereotypes linger after high school

It’s a sentiment found in the kindergarten going to school for the first time, or in the third grader headed to summer camp, or even in the adult who spends countless hours on planes and in hotels on business. But perhaps the feeling hits no demographic harder than college students leaving home for the first time: homesickness.

Not only can everyone relate to homesickness, but also it has been a motif in ancient literature. In Homer’s Odyssey and other epics, the hero is motivated by homesickness to brave countless foes, mainly to reach the peace and comfort of “home.” Chances are that homesick FIU students haven’t exactly had the drama of braving any foes recently just to go back home for a visit, but admitting that the move to Miami has brought on nostalgia is the first step in getting over homesickness and moving on.

Senior Melissa Hernandez, who moved from Chicago to Miami last year, first experienced homesickness when she realized that she was missing out on regular family activities.

“I hadn’t really gotten homesick at all until today when I found out my entire family was at a White Sox game and I was 1200 miles away,” Hernandez said. “What makes me most homesick is hearing that friends and family back home are doing something that I can’t do here in Miami such as going to Sox games and raking leaves.”

At first, the causes of homesickness seem obvious — it means missing the people and things you love fueled by being thrust into a completely new environment. Naturally one would rather be around what’s familiar and comfortable instead of making the extra effort of getting used to something new. But homesickness is even connected to some deeper identity issues, as some research has claimed. When one is homesick in a completely new world, that’s when people start asking, “Where are you from?”, “Why are you here?” and “Do you like it here?”

It’s the time to make some decisions about who you are, and who you aren’t.

English Senior Reshma George had never been very far from home for long until Spring 2006, when she decided to leave the Pacific island of Guam and become an exchange student here at FIU. She chose FIU because as soon as she saw “international” in the name, George knew it could offer the kind of diversity she was looking for.

“She’s excited to be here, but now it’s her second semester and as some of the novelty wears off, homesickness creeps in.”

“This semester I’ve worked at the front desk [in housing],” George explained. “Seeing parents checking in with students, I know I don’t have that. I don’t have anyone in Florida.”

Because Guam is on the other side of the world, she’s excited that she gets to go home for Christmas, especially since most of her friends get to go home much more often than she does.

“I miss my Mom’s cooking, home—being able instead of making the extra effort of getting used to something new. But homesickness is even connected to some deeper identity issues, as some research has claimed. When one is homesick in a completely new world, that’s when people start asking, “Where are you from?”, “Why are you here?” and “Do you like it here?”

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“Telling someone they stink — a public service

Having consistently good personal hygiene is a life-long goal that I would put right up there with winning the lottery or working for Rolling Stone. For some, however, taking the time to roll a stick of deodorant underarm the arm is like wasting time to tie your shoes when you’re late for class. I’m not passing judgment, though. America is the land of the free and smelling rancid is some unwritten right in the constitution, along with laughing too loud at a movie theater or asking a bank teller 16,000 questions when clearly there’s a long line behind you.

There is, however, a limit to the madness. Didn’t someone important once say the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few? If you’re working in an enclosed office with recycled air being pumped out of the vents and you smell...
Conformity influences existence of college-level stereotypes

STEREOTYPE, page 8

than they ever had in high school. Rather than only associate with those that have similar interests, college students tend to branch out and no longer maintain the fade they once donned in high school.

Yet social pressure and a desire to fit in also pushes students to form groups and join clubs, and even at the college level negative stereotypes can still continue to linger.

On campus the strongest stereotype that does seem to exist is the one surrounding fraternities and sororities.

"A lot of people think I'm a bully and do nothing but get drunk," said sophomore Riquet Caballero, a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

According to Caballero, being in a fraternity is really about being in a group. The group tries to do as much community service as possible.

"We do party, but it's not like what you see in the movies," Caballero said.

Sorority members also tend to be negatively stereotyped.

"People assume you're an airhead," said Sophomore Cindy Torres, a member of the Sorority Alpha Omicron Pi. "It's really about networking and meeting a lot of new people on top of the community service." Some students expect the worst when they transition into college, but at times those notions are unfounded.

Tact necessary when confronting friends about body odor

"I thought there would be a lot of stereotyping, but there is not," said freshman Junior Nunez.

For some, the less structured nature of college life can be surprising.

"It's a lot more laid back. People don't do it like they did in high school," said freshman Alexandra Casanova.

Some, however, think students continue to stereotype. Take the group of male students who hang around in the Graham Center playing video games. In passing, one would assume they are nerds playing a video game all day. But for those who take the time to talk to them one-on-one will realize they are just students passing time in between classes.

"A lot is based on how you look," said senior Robin Butkovitz. "If you deviate from the normal appearance, people assume things about you." While stereotypes are not as prominent as they were when you were in high school, they still linger. If you take a walk around campus it's likely you'll see a group you won't find hard to label.

"We use stereotypes to help us categorize others and understand the world better," Stephens said.

At best, higher education is a form of learning to view events and people in a new light. So before you go assuming the jock is an airhead or the sorority girl is a bimbo, go talk to them. You may discover something new.

In this short life it's necessary to do your fair share of philanthropy. It's good for karma and to seal you a spot in heaven. Maybe it's this kind of good deed that could erase that time you kicked a puppy for amusement.

When tact is difficult to achieve, it doesn't mean you have to suffer silently. You can always circumvent ever talking to the offender a fancy hygiene kit or whatever. This is probably one of the only true examples of a gift that keeps on giving.

Use your resources to your advantage. I know that college freebie fairs give out mini-sticks of deodorant. You can approach the offender with, "Hey, look what I got in GC!" and offer the person one, or five or as many sticks as you can carry.

When you have an airhead or the sorority girl is a bimbo, go talk to them. You may discover something new.

"A lot of people think I'm a bully and do nothing but get drunk," said sophomore Riquet Caballero, a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

According to Caballero, being in a fraternity is really about being in a group. The group tries to do as much community service as possible.

"We do party, but it's not like what you see in the movies," Caballero said.

Sorority members also tend to be negatively stereotyped.

"People assume you're an airhead," said Sophomore Cindy Torres, a member of the Sorority Alpha Omicron Pi. "It's really about networking and meeting a lot of new people on top of the community service." Some students expect the worst when they transition into college, but at times those notions are unfounded.

Tact necessary when confronting friends about body odor

"I thought there would be a lot of stereotyping, but there is not," said freshman Junior Nunez.

For some, the less structured nature of college life can be surprising.

"It's a lot more laid back. People don't do it like they did in high school," said freshman Alexandra Casanova.

Some, however, think students continue to stereotype. Take the group of male students who hang around in the Graham Center playing video games. In passing, one would assume they are nerds playing a video game all day. But for those who take the time to talk to them one-on-one will realize they are just students passing time in between classes.

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MUSIC

Citizen Hope – Every Waking Moment

SAMANTHA QUINON

If you regularly watch television, you have probably heard of Citizen Cope, a.k.a. Clarence Greenwood. In 2004 his music was featured in a Pontiac commercial, and 2004 his music was featured in Clarence Greenwood. In television, you have probably heard of Citizen Hope. If you think you’d like hip hop-infused urban blues-rock a bit reminiscent of Everlast and Arrested Development and rounded out by Greenwood’s smooth John Legend-esque pacing, by all means pick up his self-titled debut. Sadly, since then Greenwood has been gradually losing his creative energy, and Citizen Cope’s new album is leagues below its two predecessors.

In the first track, “Back Together,” Greenwood and his band couldn’t pick a style, so they haphazardly borrowed from genres only to wind up sounding confused.

The good news is that the first track is the most musically ambitious, so the ones that follow sound better … until you sit down and listen to the whole album in one sitting. Greenwood has never been a strong lyricist, and his skills degenerate with each successive album. As the group becomes better known his lyrics grow less narrative and colorful as they are stripped down to banal,generic choruses on an attempt to draw a wider commercial audience.

The worst example of this last track, “Left for Dead;” the entire chorus is “A, E, I, O, U.” And no, Greenwood isn’t joking. It makes you wish this unintentional humor came at the middle of the album to break up the monotony of the other less humorous choruses, which eventually evolve into the only lyrics for their song.

The only bright spots on Every Waking Moment are the musical arrangements. Few groups can pull off hip-hop infused blues-rock well, and while Citizen Cope is close, they just don’t make a good album.

Although the music arrangements are beautifully simple with perfect, not overly percussive beats, the instruments sometimes fail. Many tracks feature synth strings and a synth bass that evolve into the only lyrics for the chorus, which eventually become the only lyrics for their song.

Citize

FOOD

Panya Thai

LALINDA DE LA FUENTE

The minute people find out that I am half Thai they ask me the same question, “Where is the best place to eat Thai food?” Although there is an array of decent Thai restaurants that dot the Greater Miami area, few stand out as more authentic fare. Panya Thai in North Miami Beach may be unassuming and low-key but the food has an authentic flare that few others are able to boast about.

Panya’s relaxed atmosphere and characteristically soft-spoken Thai waitresses both lend well to a pleasant Thai experience. If you don’t frequent Thai restaurants, their small staff will be more than happy to explain the dishes and alter them to suit your taste buds. Don’t be scared by the notion that Thai food is extremely spicy. Although Thai people are the bite of hot peppers, practically any dish can be made on a milder scale and yet still retain its flavor.

Panya’s menu is extensive, offering food that is accessible to both the play-it-safe individual and the bold eater. Its appetizers range from the everyday to dishes that even I was surprised to find on a Thai menu. Its appetizers range from the everyday to dishes that are sure to please both those who enjoy everything from chicken or pork to shrimp or fish. Thais in particular carry embodiments of Indian influence, taste, and rich flavor. For more traditional Thai foods, their red and green ones are the way to go. Both are made with coconut milk and mixed vegetables but the red has a stronger kick than its milder counterpart green.

Panya’s desserts are a way to go it’s your first time trying the fare. Try their dishes with basil, ginger or pepper sauce for equally flavorful dishes. Make sure to also try their basil ice tea or coffee. These drinks are served over ice with condensed milk for a rich chilled treat. Its ice cream is made in the traditional Thai manner; a scoop of delectable ice cream with condensed milk for a rich chilled treat. Its ice cream is made in the traditional Thai manner; a scoop of delectable ice cream with condensed milk. One may be teases, so beware. For more traditional Thai foods, their red and green ones are the way to go. Both are made with coconut milk and mixed vegetables but the red has a stronger kick than its milder counterpart green.

Although slightly pricey with entrees starting at 10 and 20 dollars, Panya Thai stands out with its authentic Thai fare and extensive selection suited to people with all tastes.
If you’re looking for the family film of the year with the celebrity cast and the Elton John soundtrack, “Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan” is most certainly not your destination.

Without doubt, one of the most offensive movies ever made, Borat insults just about everyone – Jews, Gays, Women, Christians, Gypsies, Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, the American government, the American national anthem and even the country of Uzbekistan, not to mention Kazakhstan, the home nation of Borat.

However despite offending all of the above, the movie is still the funniest thing I’ve seen in my life. Don’t believe me? What other movie would feature a seven minute physical fight between two butt-naked Arab men (Borat and his obese manager) battling it out in a hotel room?

The fight moves from outrageous and disgusting to outright ridiculous as Borat and his obese manager take their physical and sexually suggestive fight from their room into the hotel lobby and finally into a Mortgage Brokers Convention at the hotel ballrooms. Oh, and during this whole time, they’re cursing at each other and screaming like girls in an incomprehensible Russian language. If that scene doesn’t sound funny to you, then you my friend don’t have a sense of humor.

Borat Sagdiyev, the brainchild of British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen, the creator and star of HBO’s Da Ali G Show, is a satirical Kazakhstani journalist who constantly offends unsuspecting individuals with his unorthodox attitude and questions. In Borat – The Movie, Borat has been sent by his country to learn about the cultures and traditions of America so that Kazakhstani can learn from the U.S.

Clocking in at 82 minutes and shot as a mockumentary, Borat is mostly a collection of fantastic skits featuring Cohen (as Borat) offending regular unsuspecting people, strung together by Borat’s goal of finding the virginal Pamela Anderson.

Regardless of how you decide to over- come your feelings for home, it may be a good idea to join several campus organizations that fit your interests and will help you build your new support system. Try to identify what will help them move on, this way for home. Some find it to home often, while others find that this keeps them from adjusting to their new environment. Similarly, some need those extra-frequent phone calls to Mom and Dad, while others feel better if they’re more immersed in their new atmosphere.

To cope with her feelings of homesick- ness, Hernandez does activities that remind her of her times in Chicago.

To make myself feel better, I usually cook some Mexican food and watch or read up on Chicago sports teams,” Hernandez said.

For college students, the definition of homesickness can be misleading because a homesick student doesn’t necessarily want to go back home. Usually students have left home of their own choosing and probably made the decision expecting a certain degree of homesickness. Not only that, but some students often don’t even return to their hometowns after graduating, which means that homesickness is a part of life’s natural progression, and that most people consider it worthwhile.

George agrees.

“IT’S NOT THAT I MISS THINGS SO MUCH THAT I WANT TO GO BACK. I AM CONTENT HERE,” she said.

“That’s how I know what’s important to me. I learned a lot coming here, especially coming from a small island where I knew everything and everyone.”

Some students do go through those moments of longing for home, it’s important for college students to identify what will help them move on, this way for home. Some find it to home often, while others find that this keeps them from adjusting to their new environment. Similarly, some need those extra-frequent phone calls to Mom and Dad, while others feel better if they’re more immersed in their new atmosphere.

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Howard’s bat will put him with elite company

**HALL OF FAME BERLIN**

Howard, the Florida native who has emerged as one of baseball’s premier power hitters, is on the cusp of reaching elite status. With 19 home runs and 60 RBIs at the All-Star break, Howard is tracking to become the 17th player in history to reach the 40 home run and 100 RBIs mark in the same season. His performance has earned him consideration for MVP and ASG selection.

**WALKING INTO THE POSTSEASON**

The Philadelphia Phillies have a legitimate shot at making the playoffs, thanks in large part to the steady production of Ryan Howard. The slugger has been a consistent force at the plate, hitting .328 with 14 home runs and 54 RBIs in the first half. His ability to hit with power and his excellent on-base percentage (.400) make him a valuable contributor to any team's lineup.

**THE AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST**

In the American League East, the New York Yankees have been overshadowed by the Boston Red Sox, who have a more formidable lineup and pitching staff. However, the Yankees’ outfield trio of Mariano Andruw, Aganace, and Feliz has been effective, contributing clutch hits and driving in runs. Despite their struggles, the Yankees remain competitive in the AL East.

**THE NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST**

The Atlanta Braves have been a surprise team this season, with their pitchers leading the league in ERA. Their offense, led by Pujols and Ryan Howard, has been potent, with Howard on pace to become the 17th player in history to reach the 40 home run and 100 RBIs mark.

**REBUILDING TOWARDS THE FUTURE**

The Philadelphia Phillies, who have missed the playoffs for three straight years, have made some key acquisitions, including Howard and the veteran star Bobby Abreu. The team has a young core of players, and if they can continue to develop, they may become a contend for the NL East.

**THE NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST**

The San Francisco Giants have been the surprise team of the season in the NL West, with their pitching leading the league in ERA. Their offense, led by Barry Bonds and Mark McGwire, has been potent, with Bonds on pace to break the 700 career home runs mark.

**SLUGGERS RULE**

Great hitters like San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds, and Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz have that ability and they have the talent to carry their teams to the playoffs. The Giants’ Bonds and the Red Sox’s Ortiz have been the driving forces behind their teams’ success.

**THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH**

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on the next game,” Patrick said. “But I know that there is only a certain amount of time you have before your season is done.”

“She has a lot of leadership qualities that help the team,” sophomore defender Kia Rigsby said. As a leader, Patrick knows it is important to maintain a level of toughness both on herself and on her younger teammates.

“The younger players really look up to her,” Dieke said. “And they should. She gives 100% every time and has become a more demanding player.”

That persistence may come from Patrick’s reliance on her dad, who also played soccer and pushes her when she feels that she is losing focus. He also provided her with optimism and some overall constructive criticism.

“He has always pushed me to be a better player,” Patrick said. “He will tell me when I am doing well. But he will tell me flat out when I am not doing so well and would have me do things over until I would get them right.”

Patrick hopes to leave an impact on the FIU team prior to the end of the season.

“I want to be remembered as a leader,” Patrick said. “I also want to make sure that the girls know that soccer is fun. If you work hard toward your goals, you could get to them. And of course, win the conference.”

Her teammates will also remember her for her personality.

“She has really brought a level of excitement to the team,” Rigsby said.
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SUPER SENIOR
Midfielder attempts to leave mark at FIU

JANNEL PALENZUELA
Contributing Writer

Coming into her senior year, Valerie Patrick has earned a starting position in 58 of 59 games throughout her women's soccer career.

As a freshman, she was one of only two whose hard work was rewarded by starting all 17 games.

It was during her first season that the midfielder from Littleton, Colo., scored her first goal. It was the only goal FIU could manage to come up with in a match against Denver in October 2003. Prior to that, she recorded two assists on a pair of goals in a win against Charleston Southern in September 2003.

“I didn’t expect to get so much playing time at first,” Patrick said. “I was shocked and I especially didn’t expect to start every game.”

Throughout her second season as a sophomore, Patrick scored four goals on the year. Three of those goals were game-winners. That same year she was named to the Sun Belt Conference All-Tournament Team after two goals in a quarterfinal win against Western Kentucky in November 2004.

Although Patrick did not score a goal during the 2005 season as a junior, she was one of only 3 players that played in and started all 16 games. She recorded two assists and 24 shots that year.

As her career has progressed, Patrick realizes that there are many goals she has achieved. Despite all her accomplishments, there is still one that she is working harder than ever to reach.

“Winning the conference has always been our main focus,” Patrick said. “It’s my last year and it would be great to win it. We have a good feeling this year.”

Assistant Coach Ifeoma Dieke added, “This is her last year and it is important for her to be able to lift the team. She and [Kristy] Webb are our most consistent players, and we need that from them.”

While working toward winning the conference, there are games that will not go as well as hoped for.

As a senior, Patrick knows you can’t win them all. It is during those times that the team as a whole looks for ways to pick themselves up.

“I try to keep my mind focused and it’s been a close race for the conference, there are many goals she has achieved.”

Coming into her senior year, Valerie Patrick has started in 58 of 59 games she’s played as a Golden Panther.

Who will win the National League MVP?

Howard’s record numbers lead team into wild-card

It’s been a close race for this year’s National League Most Valuable Player award and sports writers all around the nation are arguing with each other why St. Louis Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols or New York Mets centerfielder Carlos Beltran should win the award.

To be quite honest, both of these candidates would be worthy choices, but neither are right choices.

The worthy candidate would be Philadelphia Phillies first baseman Ryan Howard.

Howard was almost traded after they signed former Cleveland Indian slugger Jim Thome. In his first two years, Thome put up the numbers that were expected of him, which caused Howard to sit in the minors before he had a chance to show his capabilities. While Thome began dazzling the home crowd with his homeruns, many teams tried to trade for Howard. Luckily for the Phillies, they stood by their prospect.

As last year’s Rookie of the Year recipient, he has fans in Philly salivating over what could be. Why all the hype? Consider this: he batted .312 with a slugging percentage of .670, belted 57 homeruns and drove in 140 RBI. All of this at the age of 26 and he’s only making $355,000 this year. Talk about a bargain.

Barring no set back, he has the capability of being a Hall of Famer.

He’s in his mid-to-late 30s – there’s still no question that he is one of the best players in baseball.

Even though Pujols has less homeruns and RBIs than Howard this season – 46 and 129 to 57 and 140, respectively – his team is almost certainly guaranteed a playoff spot. Howard’s Phillies are still fighting for the NL Wild Card, despite Howard’s gaudy numbers.

You can argue that the Phillies wouldn’t even be competing for a Wild Card spot if it wasn’t for Howard, but you can also say that the St. Louis Cardinals would be leading the Central Division if it wasn’t for Pujols.

If the Phillies don’t make the FINALISTS: Ryan Howard (top) and Albert Pujols (bottom) are the leading candidates for NL MVP.

Albert Pujols provides more power, but his choice is not really 26 – all it takes is one more year and he’s in his mid-to-late 30s – there’s still no question that he is one of the best players in baseball.