3-1-2007

The Beacon, March 01, 2007

Florida International University

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Students question Coke’s ethics

CHRISTOPHER NEVLAND AND MARIA CHERCOLES
Beacon Staff

The Student Government Association has decided to support a student campaign asking that the University think twice before renewing its contract with Coca-Cola this April.

The campaign—which has been named “Killer Coke”—is spearheaded by the United Students Against Sweatshops. Representatives from the organization say that Coke hasn’t been able to answer certain questions related to its labor practices abroad.

The Coca-Cola Company currently has a 10-year exclusivity contract with FIU under the terms that the contract will open for revision and bidding after its fifth year, which will occur at the end of this semester.

According to USAS, if the contract is terminated in April, FIU will not have to pay any compensation to the company. This is why the campaign is racing against time.

The club alleges that the company has been using more than its fair share of water in India, violating the country’s restrictions on how much can be used. They also say that the company has unfair labor practices in Turkey and the organization even alleges that Coke has hired paramilitary troops in Colombia to murder and scare union leaders.

USAS first presented its case to SGA two weeks ago, and Alfonso “Alfi e” Leon, president of the Student Government Council at University Park, agreed to support the club.

USA member Laura Garcia then gave a presentation at the council’s weekly meeting Feb. 21 and asked council members to volunteer and help conduct an extensive investigation on the company’s practices that will later be presented to University officials.

“The reason we ask SGA for support is because you are elected representatives and the University hears your concerns. It is easier for you to reach high officials [than for the average student],” Garcia said at the meeting.

At the end of the presentation, four SGA members agreed to volunteer in the newly formed committee. However, they preferred to remain anonymous.

According to Pablo Avendano, USAS president, the completed report will be presented to the Faculty Senate.

“FIU does not have the time or the money to conduct this report. Other universities even sent people to India to investigate coke’s operations. Since FIU can’t do this, we are asking students to help us conduct the investigation,” Garcia said.

As part of the new committee’s efforts, Leon and Camilo Silva, president of the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus, signed and sent a letter to the company’s headquarters, located in Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 21.

The letter invites Coke to send a representative to a public forum at FIU and answer questions on the student’s allegations before the contract opens for revision. The letter also asks that the forum take place sometime in March, preferably March 13 or 14.

Approved to move the elections.

When asked about not informing students about the change, Andrews acknowledged that there hasn’t been any public hearing, but added that he did talk to the students “most likely to run on the elections or to vote,” and that they did not have a problem with the change.

Leon said that in fact, there was a University-wide council meeting in which the issue was brought up and no one raised concerns, yet he couldn’t specify the date of the meeting.

Jedene Tulloch, a member of the elections board, did not mention the University council meeting, but said that the decision was in fact announced during an SGA general meeting, and that this sufficed the requirement to make a public announcement.

“General meetings are considered public announcements. They are open to the public,” Tulloch said.

Despite the fact that the last meeting minutes posted on the SGA website date June 21, 2006, Tulloch referred to them as a “communication channel between SGA and the students.”

“We have minutes from every meeting. Anyone with questions is free to ask for them, but we can’t announce to our students every time we change a [letter from] lower case [to] upper case,” Tulloch said.

ELECTIONS, page 3
The Florida Department of Environmental Protection will award FIU’s Applied Research Center and Florida Crystals Corporation a $1 million grant to develop cellulose ethanol technology under the Florida Renewable Energy Technologies Grant Program.

The announcement was made Feb. 22. The grant money will be used to investigate a pretreatment process that can cost-effectively convert sugarcane byproducts (known as bagasse) to ethanol.

The study will determine the feasibility of using Florida bagasse as a feedstock for a future large-scale bioenergy plant in Florida. The grant will be matched by FCC, the largest sugar producer in the United States.

According to the release, the project’s aim is to commercialize ethanol production from bio-mass and will mark the first time a major company and a university jointly pilot development to take cellulose ethanol to full commercial scale.

FIU’s hurricane center partners with Weath-
nerPredict

FIU’s International Hurricane Research Center and WeatherPredict Consulting Inc., a company that provides customized weather forecasting technology, announced Feb. 27 that they will jointly develop The RenaissanceRe Wall of Wind.

The weather wall is being officially named after RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd., a global provider of reinsurance and insurance and a United States. affiliate of WeatherPredict but has been dubbed the “WOW.”

The “WOW” will replicate Category 4 hurricane conditions with 130-140 mph winds and rain in a laboratory environment. Powered by a reactor engine with 502 horsepower, the RenaissanceRe Wall of Wind consists of six rotating propellers inside 7 ft round aluminum ducts. Wall-mounted and freestanding wind-driven rain gauges will measure vertical and horizontal rainfall intensities.

The WOW was tested on a home in Sweetwater several months ago and the testing facility is slated to be completed late this summer.

LOCAL Gov. Crist tackles first “To-do” list

Gov. Charlie Crist goes into his first regular legislative session with a long “To-do” list and complexities his predecessor, Gov. Jeb Bush, didn’t face during his time in office.

Crist has promised to lower property tax rates, while homeowners insurance is still on his mind. Additionally, he has to pay for constitutionally required class size limits during a time when the budget has reached a plateau.

At the top of the list of the bills he wants passed is the anti-murder bill, which strives to keep violent felons who violate probation behind bars.

Crist also wants to give the state’s best teachers a 10 percent raise, make sure that there’s a paper trail for every vote and create permanent legislation for sales tax holidays for school and hurricane supplies.

– Compiled by Betsy Martinez and Yesenia Forte from Beacon staff and wire reports

Memorization no longer a big part of new GRE

February has passed and graduation is now only two months away for many. However, recent changes to the Graduate Record Examina-
tions, a requirement for all students consid-
ering graduate degrees, may make their academic lives somewhat more difficult.

The Educational Testing Services, which makes the GRE, announced Feb. 8 that the exams would change their format, a decision that might drive students to take the exam before planned, while they can take the old version.

"The level of difficulty probably will not change but the emphasis will. Memorization will play a much smaller role in the new test," said Stephan Mintz, intern dean for the University Graduate School. "So what are these changes?"

The new Verbal Reasoning Section will place more importance on verbal reasoning and reading comprehension. A possible question may look something like this: "Cynics believe that people who ___ compliments do so in order to be praised twice." Students will select the answer from six possible choices.

Another change to the test is that word analogies and antonyms will disappear, Mintz said. Students can also expect new question formats in addition to multiple choices, such as highlighting an important sentence in a passage.

The new Quantitative Reasoning section will focus less on geometry and more on real life applications. New question formats will also be applied to the Quantitative Reasoning section, such as fill-in the blank questions.

The new Quantitative Reasoning section will look something like this: "The total amount of Judy’s water bill for the last quarter of the year was $40.50. The bill consisted of a fixed charge of $13.50 plus a charge of $0.075 per gallon for the water used in the quarter. For how many gallons of water was Judy charged for the quarter?" The student will be asked to type in the answer on the test screen.

The Analytical Writing section has been renamed Critical Thinking and Analytical Writing. This section will test student’s ability to express themselves clearly and effectively while eliminating the possible use of memo-

ized skills to respond to prompts.
Coke's ethics questioned

COKE, page 1

explained during the SGA meeting that the report should be completed before the bidding begins because only financial questions and advantages will be discussed during the meeting, so it is up to the students to question the company's practices. FIU is not the first university to question Coke's operations abroad.

"If you are going to take politics seriously, abide by the plain text," Foley said. "If our president violated the U.S. constitution under the same terms, it would obviously raise concerns. That's just not a good signal."

Another, more serious question is whether disregarding the constitution for this issue could lead to other, more serious infringements. "Leaders who disregard regulations are leaders you have to keep in mind, because they'll do it again … It applies to any president," Foley said.

The election date has never been moved before, said Andrews, who mentioned that the issue opened conversations about the strictness of the constitution, and whether there should be a clause allowing date changes in case of emergencies. Leon agreed, saying that a new SGA constitution with a clause about the election dates will be approved soon.

SGA ignores process

ELECTIONS, page 1

Foley believes that notifying the student body of changes like this one, which could affect grad students, is still necessary. According to Foley, it's not a matter of whether the issue is that important or not, but rather of how serious student government takes its constitution.

"When compared to the U.S. constitution, the SGA constitution might not seem as formal or as important, yet it is the document by which the University's student government be determined."

"If you are going to take politics seriously, abide by the plain text," Foley said. "If our president violated the U.S. constitution under the same terms, it would obviously raise concerns. That's just not a good signal."

GRE makeover to affect grad students

GRE, page 2

The essays will now ask students to take positions on given statements, then defend those positions while considering the ways in which the statement might or might not be true.

"The new test will measure skills more directly related to graduate study", Mintz said.

But there is still some good news about the changes: an on-screen calculator will now be made available.

ETS hopes that the revised GRE will have clearer scores, which will lead to improved predictability of future success in graduate school. The new test will be safer and more "test-taker friendly," according to the ETS's website.

The new test will be safer and more "test-taker friendly," according to Foley. The new test will be administered.

The last day to take the current version of the test is July 31, with only limited registration. Perhaps more problematic is the fact that the exam will no longer be offered in August.

According to the ETS's website, registration has been limited to ensure ample time for the transition from the old to the new version of the test, and to guarantee that the population taking the new test will be representative to calculate the new score scales.

To study for the new test, ETS offers free preparation materials on their website. However, Mintz advises that practicing won't guarantee a perfect score. "Some practice is always useful but success will reflect what a student has learned over a lifetime," Mintz said.

Instead of year-round continuous testing, the new test will be given approximately 35 times a year worldwide. The number of testing dates in each region will depend on each region's test volume.

The event will begin with a general information session highlighting what to expect from FIU's Graduate School, according to Nanet Rojas, Graduate School coordinator.

After the information session, students will have the chance to meet with representatives from various departments.

For more information on the GRE, go to www.ets.org/gre. For more information on FIU's Graduate Open House visit http://grad-school.fiu.edu.
Sharpton promises students he’ll visit shantytown

JOSEPHINE BRILLANTE
Contributing Writer

Civil Rights leader Reverend Al Sharpton – the self-proclaimed “racial activist and injustice” and former Democratic presidential candidate – was a guest speaker at this year’s Black Student Union Conference. His lecture featured points about avoiding youth apathy and increasing student activism.

The Conference took place Feb. 23 in the Koves Conference Center located in the Biscayne Bay Campus.

As Sharpton put it, his purpose for being there was to empower his audience and ignite passion to fight for their beliefs.

Despite Sharpton’s often controversial past, students and faculty in attendance were excited to have the opportunity to hear Sharpton as he urged them to take action against any kind of injustice they might experience.

“In the last several years, I have found [Sharpton] to become more mature, thoughtful, conscious and deliberate,” professor Ronn Silverstein of the English department said.

During the last few minutes of Sharpton’s speech, FIU student activists with Take Back the Land confronted the speaker.

The group has been protesting the government’s denial to provide low-income housing to homeless residents in Liberty City. Many of these residents have been forced to live in a shantytown known as Umoja Village.

The students said Sharpton spoke with them over his radio station, promising to come to Umoja Village himself, and support them in their cause.

“When there are fights like this, we hope black leaders would help,” Muhammed Malik, president of Act Now to Stop War and End Racism, said.

Sharpton apologized for being preoccupied and agreed to eventually stop by the village.

He finally made it Feb. 27, when he promised to sleep at the village if nothing is done to fix the problems and vowed to donate $1,000 to the community.

According to Sharpton, countless individuals see themselves powerless to implement change in the world. He spoke about combating apathy, emphasizing that progress can only be made when people stand up for what they believe.

“Rather than just observe black history, you need to stand up and make black history,” he said.

Sharpton communicated that simply accepting how society portrays African-Americans in the United States advances the advancement of equality.

“Acting like blacks is synonymous to hoodlums and thugs. This is counter-productive to black history,” Sharpton said.

“It’s bad to be down. It’s worse to glorify being down. A lot of what we see is people glorifying this through their culture.”

He offered statistics to validate the disparity between African-Americans and other races. While African-Americans make up 13 per cent of the country’s population, they make up 50 per cent of the prison population today.

He insisted that the power of a few is strong enough to create change.

“If even you’re not responsible for being down, you’re responsible for getting up,” Sharpton said.

“The legacy of our people is that no matter how far down we are, we always find a way up.”

Sophomore John Wilson was surprised that Sharpton had been asked to visit FIU.

“Despite [Sharpton’s] controversial history, in the end, he’s the guy with Martin Luther King Jr. As much as you could criticize him, he has made his mark on the world.”

-Additional reporting by Charlie Gruau

AT THE BAY

Event sheds new light on hip-hop

SILVIA LORENZO
Contributing Writer

Students and the North Miami community crowded together for the beginning of a weekend-long event Feb. 23 in order to reclaim hip hop’s identity and promote social progress.

The Fourth Annual Organic Hip-hop Symposium, which brought an estimated 250 people to the Biscayne Bay Campus, featured local lyricists, spoken-word and graffiti artists, breakdancers and a keynote speaker.

The highlighted theme for this year’s symposium is a more natural approach to living and the arts. The African New World Studies and the Urban American Newspaper, which promotes mostly independent hip hop artists and businesses, sponsored the symposium.

The event provided “organic music and discussions that do not receive popular media attention,” according to Tony Muhammed, the owner of UAN and a FIU alumni, who organizes the event each year.

“This event is for the community. We bridge gaps between students, professionals and generations,” he said.

Muhammed said the event was supposed to present “an international perspective of hip hop and create a place where like-minded people can network and strengthen the community.”

According to rapper KRS-One, who had been a speaker at a previous hip hop conference held at BBC, the symposium was important because the genre is more than just a “collection of music and dance products.”

“It’s the collective consciousness of a real community,” the rapper said.

The origins of hip hop were also explored. This included graffiti art and break dancing as part of its culture.

According to the book, The Vibe History of Hip Hop, early hip hop artists used music to voice socially conscious issues and promote social progress and political action instead of the violence and misogyny that the commercialized form of hip hop music is now seen to promote.

The symposium began with the serving of a vegetarian meal, which stressed this year’s theme of an organic approach to living.

“We live in a junk food culture. My goal is to present an alternative to the junk food we are fed in popular culture,” Muhammed said.

Lilu Africa, the keynote speaker, spoke about how important artistic expression and an organic diet are to physical health and social progress.

“Anything you put in your body that is denatured will denature you,” Africa said. She also emphasized the need to “take any step necessary to clean your body, mind and spirit of pollutants.”

Casandra Roache, the Health and Wellness Center’s senior health educator, agreed with Africa. Roache, who confronts students’ health concerns every day, was pleased that the symposium promoted a healthier diet and socially conscious issues.

“The diet of an average FIU student is horrible. There needs to be a balance. Regular hip hop isn’t promoting anything wonderful,” Roache said.

The Limited Edition Steppers and the Black Student Union present Devil’s in God’s House, which will feature an all-star cast. The play discusses controversial events that occur in churches.

The play will take place March 1 at 8 p.m. at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater. Tickets for students and the general public are $5 in advance or $7 at the door.

To purchase tickets or meet the cast, call 786-443-2540.

NEWSFLASH

Health expo offers free health screenings

The Wellness Center will help the Biscayne Bay Campus community “Journey Through Wellness” during the two days of the Wellness Expo 2007.

The event will be held March 13 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Academic I. The second day of the expo will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 14 at the Wolfe University Center. Free health screenings and prizes will be available, among other things.

For more information, call 305-919-5620, ext. 4.

Play at BBC explores church issues

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Chance to address BBC events at forum

On Mar. 1, a BBC Student Forum will be held for all students to give their input on what they feel about BBC and the events happening around the campus. Commuter students will be able to give their input from 12:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the BBC cafeteria. The forum for residential students will take place from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Housing Community Room.

Compiled by Ana Davis and Nicole Acosta

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www.beaconnenerpaper.com
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Photos by Chris Cutro/The Beacon
MAIDIQUE DOES THE TIME WARP

President's ploy to age FIU good for University

FIU is an institution with the potential to be among the top public universities in the country, perhaps one of the top public institutions in the whole country. The only thing that will expedite the process of academic recognition and widespread prestige is time.

That is exactly what University President Modesto A. Maidique is trying to accomplish by moving the University's 50th anniversary from 2021 to 2015. Maidique is laying the groundwork for a new and intricately coordinated plan to make FIU a more widely recognized name in public education, by making it appear more aged.

Maidique's ambitions include the implementation of an "international" program of education that would include a second language requirement, essentially preparing FIU graduates for the increasingly diverse society that will surely emerge with time.

This unique brand of curriculum would mesh well with the diverse settings of the University Park campus, and the city of Miami, collectively.

While it would appear that Maidique is making the university's upcoming milestones — such as the completion of the FIU College of Medicine and College of Law — seem more delayed, FIU is still on par with some of the top universities in the country in terms of the amount of time it takes for graduate programs to emerge. Take for instance Duke University: this institution attained considerable prestige in a remarkably short period of time. It was founded in 1892, and little over a century later, it is recognized as the "Harvard of the South."

It took Duke University 32 years to establish its school of law, and 38 years to establish its graduate program in medicine. Compare this to FIU, which had a graduate program in law within the first 37 years of its existence, and a medical program within 41 years. The fact that one can even render some sort of comparison between two entirely disparate institutions — such as FIU and Duke — shows that Maidique is indeed doing something right.

In fact, it shows that FIU is surely on its way to national recognition.

The University of Florida, which is the most recognized university in the state, public or private, and one of the most reputable public schools in the nation, did not have a school of law for 57 years, and had no medical program for a whole century.

The fact that FIU has succeeded to do so much in so little time bodes very well for the future of the University.

As a university ages, it tends to improve in terms of academic achievement and prestige.

Maidique is clearly trying to hasten this natural process, and transform FIU into a more selective institution than it has been in the past, one that can be recognized for a diverse, yet academically talented student body.

This will attract a new crop of highly motivated students and enable other cutting edge graduate programs to be constructed in the coming years.

Maidique's vision for a curriculum that embraces the linguistic diversity of contemporary American society adequately prepares future FIU graduates for professional careers in an increasingly competitive world.

C. Joel Marino
Editor in Chief

Big or small, constitutional violations should be monitored

The recent decision made by the Student Government Association to change the date of elections is an inherently controversial one.

The Campus Life staff is attending a conference in Orlando during the second week after spring break when the rules under which they are supposed to govern.

As a result, SGA moved the date of the elections to a week later. Though an understandable decision, this action was in direct conflict with the SGA constitution, which mandates that elections be held in the second week after Spring break very year. According to SGA, the decision was announced at one of the organization's meetings, which are open to the public but are rarely attended by students. Yet SGA felt this was all that was needed to inform the university community.

That this decision is unconstitutional is a certainty; however, those who defend the decision claim that it is only a minor infraction.

It is not the role of this publication to decide the gravity of such a violation. Any decision made by SGA cannot be left unnoticed, especially when the choices made involve ignoring the rules under which they are supposed to govern.

If one rule is allowed to be broken without so much as a sign of protest, it may not be long before the next rule is broken.

When most's troubling about these developments is the lack of effort put forth by those in charge of SGA to inform and explain the changes made to the schedule.

SGC-UP President Alfonso "Alfi e" Leon has stressed the importance of procedural flexibility, and indeed there is nothing inherently wrong with a small change being made. However, when it concerns an important date, SGA should do it's best to make sure everyone learns of the change. Mentioning it briefly at a sparsely attended meeting is not enough.

Students must be informed of the decisions made by their leaders, and when those leaders fail to adequately adhere to the rules meant to maintain order, we must work even harder to inform those they represent.

When they attempt to make controversial decisions quietly, we must work all the more to the cloaks these actions in silence is cause for alarm in and of itself. Sound decisions made by government officials are seldom made quietly and announced with a whisper. Generally, such procedures are reserved only for the truly questionable ones.

We will continue to do our best to report the facts, reveal the truth, and uncover the secrets of those who govern, no matter how big or small the case may be.

Beacon employees must be held responsible by our readers when we violate the tenets of accurate reporting; yet the burdens of integrity and accountability should not only be the concern of journalists.

SGA should expect us to withstand intense public scrutiny, and they should be held to the same standard as well.

Big or small, constitutional violations should be monitored

This is in response to Xavier Villarrazo’s article titled “Athletes afraid to speak up on tough issues.” There’s a difference between being opinionated and being a bigot or a fool. It is not the opinions that we condemn, it is the stupidity behind them.

One of Villarrazo’s comments were ignorant. He wasn’t speaking up on a tough issue; he was being hateful. What tough issue are Forrest Gump, Bubba Gump, and Randy Moss spoken up on? Jeff Garcia’s sexuality? Touchdown celebrations?

These players’ antics are disrespectful and offensive, that’s why the players are seen as troublemakers.

On the other hand, Chad Johnson is just as candid as Owens and Moss, and he’s bumbled. Why? Because he expresses his opinions without being spiteful.

Some goes for Charles Barkley. The Hall of Famer has made a second career out of being opinionated during TNT’s NBA coverage.

Not only is he disliked for it, he is more popular now than ever.

Athletes are not condemned for being opinionated; ignorant and hateful athletes are criticized for embarrassing their sports.

Michael Jordan is the most marketable athlete ever, and likely the greatest one. If he opened his mouth and voiced his opinions in a civilized manner, it wouldn’t tarnish his image.

Moreover, saying Ali is cheered these days because he keeps his mouth shut is nothing short of an insult. He is adored for being the living legend that he is.

Granted, this man received a lot of criticism for his anti-war behavior in the 1960s, but times have changed.

If Ali came out today and spoke aloud his views in Iraq, no one would condemn him.

America recognizes what Ali did for fighting the sporting world and society itself.

We want athletes to be honest, not hurtful.

Ivan R. Irizarry
Senior
BAKING IN THE SUN: The Food Network South Beach Wine and Food Festival attracted more than 90 vendors and 10,000 guests over the weekend of Feb. 23-25. (Top left) Local vendors, such as Eric Lopez of Evaton Inc., pour visitors a taste of their products. (Bottom center) Live food demonstrations by chefs, such as Ian’s Tropical Grill’s Eric Grutka, heated things up on the sands along Ocean Drive. (Bottom left) FIU students, such as Pamela Sinclair, were on site to guide patrons through the events.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS CUTRO, LAYOUT BY ALEJANDRA RAMIREZ/THE BEACON

FOODIES, VENDORS MEET AND GREET AT SOUTH BEACH FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL
Dance Marathon helps raise funds for children's hospital

GEORGE ANDRESW JR., Asst. Life! Editor

For a third consecutive year, sophomore Daniel Estevez is doing it for the kids.
Estevez will once again take part in Dance Marathon 2007, a two-day event where students and non-students stay on their feet and dance for 25 consecutive hours to raise funds for the Miami Children's Hospital Foundation and the Children's Miracle Network.

"It's an opportunity to raise money for kids and families who need medical care but are otherwise unable to pay for it," said Charlene Collazo, the event's assistant director of communications.

Dance Marathon 2007, which is celebrating its 10-year anniversary, will take place in the Pharmed Arena, beginning at noon on Saturday, March 3, and finishing at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 4. The theme is DM-TV, a reflection of the importance that music has played in the event's history.

"Since Dance Marathon is all about music, we felt that an MTV-inspired theme would be perfect for our special tenth anniversary," said Leah Dunleavy, executive director of DM 2007, in a press release.

Although participants will spend the majority of their time dancing, there is an array of other activities intended to keep them awake and standing. Performances by the Miami Heat Dancers and the Miami Marlins Mermaids as well as a silent auction are scheduled for the big weekend. Marathoners won't starve, either -- Natural Chicken Grill, Pasta Factory and Einstein Bros. are providing food.

The marathon first started in 1973 at Penn State University, where the event raised more than $2,000 for the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children. FIU's Dance Marathon was established in 1997 and has since raised more than $278,000 for the Miami Children's Hospital Foundation.

According to Collazo, last year's marathon raised more than $80,000. This year, the goal is $100,000. To help reach that goal, participants are required to raise a certain amount of money prior to the event; the amount is dependent on the role they want to play.

A Dancer, someone who stays on his or her feet the entire 25 hours, needs a minimum of $700.

A Morale Assistant, someone who attends for 13 hours and helps keep the dancers motivated, has to raise $200. A Dancer Team, composed of a minimum of five dancers, needs a minimum of $2,000.

Junior Alejandra Maruri, who has to raise a minimum of $425 as a Morale Captain this year, used a series of methods to earn enough funds for her goal.

TRIVIAL PURSUIT, page 8

Celebrity woes cause personal destruction and media frenzy

As I stood in line at a local Publix deli last weekend, my gaze strayed from my ever-increasing bill to the rack of magazines neatly organized on the shelves next to the conveyor belt. It seemed to me that the majority of their time dancing, we're bored with them, we get sick of them and wait for that opportune moment to get rid of them, all in favor of the new starlet in town.
Some celebrities recover from their...
Fundraiser celebrates 10-year anniversary

DANCE MARATHON, page 7
“1 went out canvassing on the streets to ask drivers for donations and wrote letters to different companies,” she said.

Maurri also has the duty of Morale Captain, which entails boosting participants’ morale throughout the event. Maurri, who was a dancer last year, remembers how she felt during her experience at DM 2006.

“You start feeling the worst around 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. – you’re so tired,” she said.

Nevertheless, Maurri said that the marathon’s line dance kept her motivated.

The line dance, which has become a staple, is a dance that is learned in parts throughout the 25 hours. Last year’s dance included snippets from the “Saved by the Bell” theme song, the Black Eyed Peas, and Guns N’ Roses.

Estevez, who is part of the DM 2007 Steering Committee and was both a Dancer and a Morale Captain in previous years, is particularly touched by the ending ceremonies.

“It’s an amazing feeling that you get in the end when it’s over – the feeling that you were a part of something bigger than yourself and helped so many people.”

Students can pick up Dancer and Morale Assistant applications in GC 2210 at the Center for Leadership and Service and are able to register until the day of the event.

THE POWER TO TEXT FREELY WITH SPRINT.

Since we can’t be like the celebrities we crave, we want to know everything there is about them...

The highest grossing films of all time and Apocalypto opened to critical praise.

Anna Nicole Smith leaves behind a baby, four prospective fathers and the continuous battle over her late husband’s estate. As for Spears, every passing day is a worry for her family and an obsession for the public; only time can tell what direction her future will take. Every star fades, but in the case of celebrities, overexposure leads to self-destruction.
Softball captain united by friendship off the field

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Editor

Centerfielder Deomni Murray, catcher Tabitha Embry and outfielder Ashley Falk, the captains of the women’s softball team, come from diverse backgrounds, but their characters bind the three together.

Throwing rocks at tractors In Philipot, Ky., is not an exercise to develop arm strength, but a means of entertainment. Miami’s demographics are different than Kentucky, but Embry’s softball talent has translated to her to FIU where she has developed leadership skills.

The senior’s responsibilities extend to the entire team, but she is graduating this semester. Therefore, she has been teaching freshman catcher Susy Ellquist the basics of managing pitchers. Embry admits she is a kid at heart, which allows her to level with the younger players such as Murray.

“She’s showed me how to handle pitchers,” Ellquist said. “She’s a great role model on and off the field,” Monique said. “No more like a deer,” Embry said. Her roommate, junior shortstop Deomni Murray, recognizes Embry’s selflessness.

“She’s showed me how to handle pitchers,” Ellquist said. “She’s a great role model on and off the field and she’s helped me develop a work ethic.” Coach Kim Gwydir recalls recruiting her future team captain catcher during the Rising Stars Tournament in Ft. Lauderdale.

“Her athleticism stretches beyond the diamond as she drew interest from basketball programs in Miami. The diversity has caused a few communication obstacles, but she has enjoyed her experience in Miami thus far. “It was weird at first, but I’m so used to it now,” Falk said.

Coach Gwydir attests that Falk’s athletic ability did not factor in her being recruited, but her willingness to help others did.

“I never saw Ashley play,” coach Gwydir said. “She’s a first year captain, and she’s the one who helped us out when she wasn’t part of the team. We would do whatever it takes to provide assistance. “The fact she would help us out when she wasn’t part of the team was enough for me,” coach Gwydir said. Falk is a first year captain, but she does not believe that her approach to the game will change much. The friendship with Embry and Murray allow her to be a leader, but still be relaxed.

“I have more responsibilities, but I’m not really doing anything different,” she said. “The three of us are very close, we look to each other for help regardless if we’re captains or not.” Although the three team captains are from diverse places, their similar characters and friendship mesh them together as team captains. Their relationship began at the Beacon – March 1, 2007 www.beaconnewspaper.com

FIU SPORTS REPLAY

Men’s and women’s basketball win their final game of the season

FIU (MEN) 64, WKU 82

FIU (WOMEN) 66, WKU 79

The Golden Panthers lost without their leading scorer, Alex Galindo.

Despite junior guard Chris Fuller’s career-high 21 points, the Golden Panthers were overwhelmed by the Hilltoppers’ offense, which shot 70 percent from beyond the arc (7-10) and 57 percent from the field altogether.

The Hilltoppers had control throughout the whole game as they received their biggest scare of the second half, when the Golden Panthers cut the lead to 14 with 9:21 left in the game.

The win elevated Western Kentucky to the No. 1 seed in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. Fiji finished their season as the No. 11 seed in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

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The other two runs given up by FIU were unearned and ended up being the difference in the game.

The Golden Rams had been cruising through six innings behind a solid performance by junior pitcher Chris Allen before the Rams’ offense exploded, scoring nine runs in the top of the eighth against the FIU bullpen.

After the Rams managed three runs off junior reliever Eric Horstman, Price called upon senior closer Walker Whitley in the top of the eighth with two outs to finish the inning. But Whitley gave up six runs on six hits and could not get anyone out.

Freshman pitcher Brian Santana was brought in for Whitley and finally stopped the onslaught, closing out the eighth and ninth innings without surrendering a run.

The Golden Panthers pulled within a run after scoring three in the bottom of the eighth, but Price said Brian Santana, who had not pitched three innings behind a solid performance by junior pitcher Chris Allen before the Rams’ offense exploded, scoring nine runs in the top of the eighth against the FIU bullpen.

The other two runs given up by FIU were unearned and ended up being the difference in the game.

FIU 12, URI 11

Freshman pitcher Ralph Rodriguez came in and gave the Golden Panthers a solid start, giving up five runs in six innings – with only one of the runs being earned.

The Golden Panthers offense put up double digit runs again, led by freshman designated hitter Tyler Townsend, who went 3-for-3 with two home runs and six RBIs.

McOwen added three hits of his own and tied a school record with eight consecutive hits when he doubled in the third.

McOwen didn’t know he broke the record until after the game and said it is a great honor to be in the FIU athletics record book.

The Panthers didn’t make things easy for themselves, allowing the Rams to pull within two runs after scoring six in the top of the eighth.

Price said Brian Santana did another solid job closing out the final two innings of the game.

“Anytime you win three out of four, it’s a good thing,” but I still believe this team can improve, specifically with giving up the big inning,” Price said.

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305-407-7289
New coach able to motivate players and instill winning attitude

EXHIBIT B: CRISTOBAL

Cristobal has immediately changed the culture of the program. His team has yet to take the field and he already seems more energetic and passionate about his monumental task. The 36-year-old Cuban-American is from Miami and understands the football landscape here in South Florida.

Both he and athletic director Pete Garcia understand that they are blessed with a goldmine of local high school football talent. During his five years as head coach, Strock didn’t focus enough on South Florida recruiting, opting to look in other parts of the state to mold his roster. Besides focusing on keeping South Florida high school football players home, Cristobal also recruited out of the state for the first time in the program’s history. What he found was quarterback-of-the-future Colt Anderson (Omaha, Neb.) and offensive linemen Chris Cawthon (Loganville, Ga.) and Shanquan Hicks (Sanderville, Ga.).

With the extended aim at talent, this will allow the Golden Panthers to bring in the necessary athletes needed to build up the talent necessary to compete competitively. Along with Cristobal’s energetic approach to the game, Garcia has also ignited a spark in the athletic department.

On the flight back after 38-3 loss to Alabama, Garcia heard players joking around as if no whooping had taken place. Surprised at what he was hearing, he went to the back of the plane and reminded the team that they had just lost 38-3 and that they should act like it. With a new leader and sense of direction, the team should be acting like their coach for this season and the rest to come – a winner.

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Men’s baseball displays an offensive show on Rhode

ROBERTO CARTAGENA
Contributing Writer

The Golden Panthers (7-5) swung their way to victory and took three out of four games to win the series against the University of Rhode Island (1-3) at University Park Stadium Feb. 23-25.

Not making things easy for themselves, the Golden Panthers committed a number of untimely errors. However, the Rams’ defense was even worse and the Golden Panthers’ offense was just plain better.

FIU has won six of its last seven games heading into its next series against Wagner March 2-4.

IU 15, URI 10

With the game tied heading into the bottom of the third inning, the Golden Panthers’ offense scored 10 runs on five hits. The Rams did their best in assisting the Golden Panther’s output by committing five errors in the inning.

Coach Danny Price said “The Posey,” a group of rowdy students sitting over the visitor’s dugout in particular, did a great job of distracting Rhode Island throughout the game.

The Golden Panthers never trailed after the offensive outburst in the third, but Price was not pleased when the Rams scored six runs of their own in the following inning.

Freshman starting pitcher Corey Polizzano went three and two-thirds innings while giving up seven runs, five of which were earned, but managed to strikeout five. Senior outfielder Bryan Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad

Corey Polizzano went three and two-thirds innings while giving up seven runs, five of which were earned, but managed to strikeout five. Senior outfielder Bryan Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season and also moved past Brad Pullin hit his second homer of the season.

“IT’S AN HONOR ANYTIME YOU’RE ON AN ALL-TIME LIST, ESPECIALLY WITH A SCHOOL LIKE FIU THAT’S HAD SO MANY GOOD PLAYERS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS,” Pullin said.

EXHIBIT A: STOCK

Granted, he was dealt a season from hell that even Lucifer couldn’t overcome.