More food options headed to BBC

CHRISTE LA GUERRA
BBC Managing Editor

Aramark, the company that handles student dining services at FIU, and a faculty committee are putting final touches on the new dining facility at the Biscayne Bay Campus set to finish construction at the end of Spring semester.

Now the question many housing students are asking: what’s for dinner?

Rebecca Johnson, a sophomore living at Bay Vista housing doesn’t feel she’s asking for much: she just wants what University Park has.

“I feel that [University Park] has taken everything. We want a Breezeway Cafe like they do. I want one-price for all—you can eat, the pizza, the pasta, the make-your-own pancakes with the salad bar, fruit bar, all of that,” Joseph said.

It seems she might get her wish. Two student forums were held March 1 and 7 at BBC in the cafeteria and in the housing community room to find student’s preferences of food and food venues. The committee behind the task force was present to poll students on what they want out of their eating experience.

This was one of various future surveys and forums to be held in order to get the overall opinion FIU students have on the new facility, particularly because so many go back and forth between both campuses.

Aramark will be building the interior of the new cafeteria, on the first floor between Academic I and the Wolfe University Center. The facility will include a kitchen area and create space for three or four vendors to serve their food.

Stoeb Brothers is the construction company in charge of the new building as a whole; it will house the new cafeteria as well as the recreation center and should be completed by May of this year, according to Greg Olson, senior director of Student Affairs at BBC.

“That’s where we are in terms of the planning,” Olson said.

The research provides scientists with clues about how other marine habitats—which have been destroyed, in part, by over-fishing—may have functioned at one point. Shark Bay marine animals—sharks, ray, sea turtles, manatees, and dugongs, or “grazers,” as Heithaus refers to them, who eat the seagrass, are in-turn preyed upon by the sharks and the whole food chain.

FISHING, page 2

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
Production Manager

Biology professor tangles with nature’s wild side

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Unless it’s behind the safety of a four to six inch thick sheet of glass, most people try to steer clear of any encounter with a shark. But for Mike Heithaus, professor in the biological sciences department, having a protective barrier can be a little impersonal.

On a remote corner of Western Australia, in a place called Shark Bay, Heithaus leads researchers from across North America in the Shark Bay Ecosystem Research Project, a project created to understand the role that fear plays in the development of marine communities, specifically the fear of sharks.

“One of the easiest ways to explain it would be that we look at the community consequences or the ecological consequences of fear,” Heithaus said.

Heithaus says humans aren’t the only ones mortified of a shark attack. According to Heithaus, marine wildlife plan their lives around the fear of living with sharks. How and why they do this, and its affect on the ecology of the bay, is exactly what Heithaus and his colleagues intend to find out.

“When we think about predators we usually think about a body count,” Heithaus said. “We think about how many prey they kill and that is how they control communities. It turns out they can also affect prey by scaring them.”

Heithaus’ research suggests that fear is a greater determinant in the behavior of sea life than the availability of food is sometimes. Shark Bay marine animals such as sea turtles, dugongs—a down-under cousin of the manatee—and rays, which are the standard fare for the resident tiger sharks, will move out of areas just to be safe.

Even lower on the food chain, yet crucial to the research, are the beds of seagrass, which form the ecological foundation of the bay. Sea turtles and dugongs, or “grazers,” as Heithaus refers to them, who eat the seagrass, are in-turn preyyed upon by the sharks and the whole thing goes full circle.

The research provides scientists with clues about how other marine habitats—which have been destroyed, in part, by over-fishing—may have functioned at one point. It also serves as a warning to those interested in restoring the diminishing population of sea turtles and manatees in South Florida, according to Heithaus.

But Heithaus isn’t just making underwater appearances. His research and research methods have earned him a spot on the small-screen.

Since it debuted in 2003, Heithaus has been the host of the National Geographic series ‘America in the Shark Bay Ecosystem’. He also hosted ‘The Great Barrier Reef’ a few years ago.

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University Jewish community has new home

Jewish students and staff at FIU will now have a place to call home at the new Chabad Jewish Student Center. The house has been named the “Tabacinic Chabad House” in honor of Moshe Tabacinic, a Bal Harbour philanthropist who contributed funds for the house.

The house, located at 10031 S.W. 15th Terrace in Miami, will be dedicated at 11 a.m. March 11. According to the release, only eight universities in the state of Florida have Chabad student centers.

For more information, visit www.ChabadFIU.com.

FIU team only U.S. group to head to China for housing project

A group from FIU will represent the United States in Beijing, China as the only American university invited to participate in the “Future House Community” project. Part of the project’s goal is to help China’s energy and environmental concerns. According to University officials, it will include 10 houses from eight countries. Each country will design and build a house that reflects its own technological capabilities and design preferences. Among the other participating countries are Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Spain and Sweden. The official construction opening ceremony will be held March 16.

Yong Tao, an FIU professor of mechanical and material engineering, and Yimin Zhu, another FIU professor of construction management, will direct both the design and construction of the future housing project. FIU was invited to participate after its team won first place in Energy Balance at the 2005 National Solar Decathlon in Washington, D.C.

Construction of the FIU house will begin in early 2007 and is scheduled for completion by 2008.

—Compiled by Betsy Martinez

Professor hosts own animal TV show

show “Crittercam.” The Crittercam is a device that is worn by wild animals and serves the purpose of recording important information such as the animal’s whereabouts, acceleration, temperature and environmental data. It was first developed by marine biologist and filmmaker Greg Marshall and then later adopted as a pet project by the National Geographic Society.

What separates the Crittercam from other similar devices, however, is that it is the first of its kind to feature an on-board video camera making it possible for researchers to walk or swim in the footsteps of wild animals.

Lately, Heithaus has taken on a more advisory role in the project making trips to the site only to get new graduate students started and to get new legs of the project underway. New local projects are making it difficult for Heithaus to spend time in Shark Bay.

“I’d love to spend eight or nine months down there, but I just can’t anymore. So it’s up to my students to really carry on the bulk of the field work,” Heithaus said.

With the scent of freshly laid carpet still perfuming the air of his new office in the Marine Science building at the Biscayne Bay Campus, Heithaus is a far cry away from the salt, sandy environs of Western Australia, yet his sun-burned hair and the enthusiasm in his voice are telltale signs of his dedication to his work. The research will continue under his close supervision and he plans to see it through.

“Really, my philosophy is that as long as you have good questions being asked it doesn’t matter where you work or what species you’re working with,” Heithaus said.

—Geoffrey Anderson Jr.
New building will house expanded food services

DINING, page 1

EXTREME MAKEOVER: A new building is currently being constructed at BBC between Academic I and the Wolfe University Center. This building will host an expanded recreation center and cafeteria. The building will be ready for use at the beginning of Fall 2007.

IN THE NEWS:

AT THE BAY

Gallery exhibit gives brides-to-be wedding tips

WITH MARRIAGE IN MIND: Several displays exhibiting possible ideas for wedding ceremonies and receptions were showcased at the Kovens Conference Center’s First Annual Wedding Gallery, the event, which was free and open to the public, took place March 4.

“The main idea was to get more exposure to [the center],” said Jean Harris, director of the center. “We hope to have created an event that increases the name of our weddings we host [at the center],” she said.

The convenience store idea appealed to many students present at the forum because it would allow late night shopping for necessities for campus without having to leave campus in search of a convenience store. “A lot of it has to do with the funding reason. We aren’t going to have a mandatory meal plan at BBC for that very reason.”

The forum brought many pallets to the table. Students requested a wider variety of food selections. Among those requested were Caribbean food, Asian cuisine, sushi and just a good home-cooked meal that isn’t too costly.

The Kovens Conference Center, located at the Biscayne Bay Campus, held over 30 special events a year, 16 of which are weddings.

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The Board of Governors, the policy-making body that oversees Florida’s public universities, has approved FIU’s $98 million legislative budget request. Meanwhile, Gov. Charlie Crist has submitted his own budget proposal, which is much lower. The Florida Legislature will consider both budgets during its sessions, which run from March to May, to determine how much the University will actually get.

With the exception of some minor discrepancies, The Beacon endorses FIU’s budget request, along with the spending priorities it enumerates.

With so many big-budget pet projects going up at FIU lately—the stadium expansion and the colleges of law and medicine—it’s encouraging to see that FIU’s priorities in its capital outlay budget include two much-needed classroom buildings.

It’s a shame, though, that one of them is for graduate students. We understand the importance of making FIU a leader in graduate research and education. But there’s no point in reaching for that which is within the University’s hands and not taking advantage of it.

Psychotherapy, while more time consuming, is the right way to treat these sorts of conditions. It enables the individual to enact change on their own, and guide them towards more suitable and productive behaviors. Taking a pill merely alters your brain chemistry temporarily, while not actually “curing” the underlying problem.

Treatments aside, one of the most tragic examples of the consequences for those afflicted with severe psychological disorders are left untreated, is vagrancy or homelessness.

As much as one-third of the homeless population in the United States— that’s 200,000 people—are afflicted with major psychological disorders, typically schizophrenia and manic-depressive disorder. This is a harsh reminder why attention needs to be called to access increase to mental health treatment.

New advances are surely modernizing the field of psychology, which is still a very young science.

However, the burden of curtailing this growing epidemic lies with us. It is up to the American people to demand and enact change.

The college’s main building, though, will cost $40 million, and FIU still has high hopes that it will somehow get that money through private donations and matching grants. Since University President Modesto A. Maidique famously lost the $20 million donation FIU had been offered by former trustee Herbert Wertheim—along with its corresponding $20 million in state matching grants—no new private donors have surfaced.

The big question is what FIU plans to do if no such donor shows up with a $20 million donation. Where will the University get the money? Would it still construct the College of Medicine? It’s frightening that FIU is banking on a phantom donor for the financing of the college’s main building.

Finally, it’s also disturbing that FIU is requesting $31.7 million for enrollment growth to fund 1,899 FTEs. We understand that it isn’t necessarily in the University’s hands to cap enrollment growth. The bottom line is that Florida only has 11 universities to accommodate about 300,000 students.

In a perfect world, the state would open a handful of new universities to help absorb Florida’s incoming university population. But as long as there are such few institutions for so many students, universities will keep ballooning in size—and probably stretching themselves thinner and thinner.

As it is, FIU’s administrative and support infrastructure is understaffed and overwhelmed; it’s unable to provide its students with adequate customer service. The thought of adding 2,000 or so additional students to the lines at the cashier, the registrar and the financial aid office—not to mention the parking garages and food courts at University Park—is terrifying.
Let's Dance

MASTERFUL MOVES: At Dance Marathon 2007, a philanthropy event March 3 and 4 at Pharmed Arena, Morale Captain Alexandria Maruri (top) led dancers for 25 hours while participants rocked out to the music (bottom left). Others enjoyed the bouncehouse (bottom middle) and left notes in paper bags for marathon goers (bottom right). The event raised more than $85,000 dollars for Miami Children’s Hospital.

ECONOMIC STRATEGIST. INDUSTRY CATALYST. UM MBA.

Carlos Iraola  Management Team, Marketing & Business Development — Homekeys.net

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

CAMPUS VISIT

FRIDAY, MARCH 16TH AT 11:30AM  SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ROOM #GB 530.
TWO YEAR PROGRAM BEGINS AUGUST 2007.
ONE YEAR PROGRAM BEGINS JANUARY 2008.
RSVP 803.591.7137  MBA@MIAMI.EDU
WWW.BUS.MIAMI.EDU/GRAD
As exciting as the Internet is, there's still something different and perhaps more glorious about your creation showing up on national television.

— Tom Ascheim

Looking for a job? The Beacon has your solution! For jobs around your area, check our classifieds every issue in the Sports section.
Players audition to be selected in draft

**PRO DAY, page 8**

I got your back if you need me,” Bautista said. It was a tied game, 1-1, heading to the top of the seventh inning when the Seahawks scored five runs and managed to drive starter Chris Allen out of the game. The Golden Panthers responded in the bottom of the inning after Seahawk’s first baseman Dan Morvay dropped a foul ball that would have ended the inning. The Golden Panthers scored three hits and two earned runs in five innings.

“We felt good; my pitches were working, but think my fastball had a little too much movement,” Ramos said.

FIU 19, Wagner 11

The Golden Panthers scored 11 runs through five innings with several batters having multiple hits — including off right fielder Kevin Mirabel, who went 3-for-3 with four RBI. Despite Mirabel’s successes, Price opted to replace Mirabel for Cody Jacobs in the sixth inning. As a replacement, Jacobs crushed one over left field for a two-run homer, making Price look like a genius. Price decided to protect his players due to the comfortable advantage the Golden Panthers had against the Seahawks.

“I wanted to keep Mirabel fresh because he just recently came off an injury and we had a nice lead,” Price said.

Startor Jorge Ramos gave five career-high runs this game.

FIU 14, Wagner 2

Despite the loss, the Seahawks were encouraged. Some of his teammates responded in the bottom of the inning after Seahawk’s first baseman Dan Morvay dropped a foul ball that would have ended the inning. The Golden Panthers scored three hits and two earned runs in five innings.

“We have to find it somehow,” Price said, after the loss in the series finale. “It could be a freshman, senior, whoever, but somebody has to step up and become a leader.”

Despite the loss, the Golden Panthers still won their third consecutive series with three injured pitchers.

Price expects outfielder Chris Dunn, infielder the baselines loaded.

That was the first of nine runs scored by the Golden Panthers in the fourth. Freshman Carey Poliziano pitched five strong innings and allowed one earned run on five hits for the win. Although the Seahawks scored five runs in the ninth, it wasn’t enough to match the 19 runs recorded by the Golden Panthers.

Bryan Pullin scored five runs the 20-yard shuttle during Pro Day on March 2.

For the second consecutive game, Price called a catcher off his bench to pinch-hit. This time the catcher was Bautista, who, prior to Sunday’s game, had not played in the series.

He smashed the first pitch he saw to deep center field for a three-run home run. His first home run of the year gave the Golden Panthers a 7-6 lead.

However, the bullpen gave up four runs in the ninth and the Golden Panthers could not recover.

Pullin continued to swing the bat well going 4-for-6 with an RBI. Outfielder James McOwen’s 14-game hit streak to start the season was finally snapped in this game.

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NFL scouts search for new talent

CHARLIE GRAU
Sports Editor

Scouts from 24 of the 32 teams in the NFL flocked to the FIU Football Stadium for the second annual Pro Day on March 2 to evaluate nine former Golden Panther football players to participate in drills.

Among those who participated were NFL combine invitees defensive end Antwan Barnes and wide receiver Chandler Williams; linebackers Alexander Bostic III, Keyonvis Bouie and James Black; defensive backs Zach Davis and Chris Smith; tight end Samuel Smith and quarterback Josh Padrick.

Heading into the combine, Barnes didn’t have much hype and was relatively unknown, until scouts saw his workout. The former Golden Panther defensive end finished second among linebackers in the 3-4 defense due to his ability to play in the 3-4 and get their attention. Afterwards, all I could tell people was that FIU has talent down here and they have to come and see us,” Barnes said.

Williams had some success as well in the combine by posting the second lowest time in position in the 60-yard shuttle, while being clocked at 4.42 seconds in the 40-yard dash. As last season’s leading receiver in catches (67) and yards (664), Williams has been fielding punt and kick returns to help raise his draft stock. Last season, he averaged 21.5 yards on kick returns.

“I think I opened some eyes, too, because NFL people had me projected as a 4.5 or 4.6,” Williams said. “I knew I was faster than that. I don’t know if people knew I could run routes like that. I would say I helped myself again today.”

Also catching the eye of scouts was Bouie, who led the Golden Panthers with 119 tackles last season and holds the University record for career tackles with 299.

Although he’s shown his play-making ability in highlight reels, Bouie has said he has been working day and night at FIU’s weight room to impress scouts.

“I think a lot of people were looking at me this Pro Day,” Bouie said.

MEASURING UP: Former tight end Samuel Smith’s broad jump is recorded by scouts representing 24 NFL teams. Pro Day allows scouts to search for talent beyond the NFL combine held in Indianapolis, Ind.

Women’s basketball sent packing by Louisiana-Lafayette

ANDREW JULIAN
Contributing Writer

After advancing to the Sun Belt conference tournament quarterfinals with a win at home against the Troy Trojans, the Golden Panthers’ cold shooting made it difficult for them to finish the job.

Sophomore forward Marquita Adley led the Golden Panthers with 11 points and 10 rebounds, posting her second double-double of the season, on 3-of-6 shooting from the field, 5-of-9 from the free throw line.

Coming into the game fresh off of a win against Troy in which they shot 44 percent from the field, the Golden Panthers’ cold shooting night doomed them.

“Our defense was key in the second half,” Adley said. “We were able to turn it up a notch.”

The Ragin’ Cajuns took the lead for the second half on a 16-3 run at 17:21 mark of the game for Colbert who finished with 13 points and seven rebounds, the third leading rebounder in the Sun Belt at 9.6 per game, Jekabson, who led the Golden Panthers in scoring at 15.7 points per game, was held to just two points on only five shots.

“The shooting percentage really hurt us tonight,” coach Cindy Russo said.

Junior guard LaQuetta Ferguson, who led the Golden Panthers in scoring at 15.7 points per game, was limited to eight points on 2-of-15 shooting, while senior center Lasma Jekabsone, averaging 14.2 per game, was held to just two points on only five shots.

“Coming into the game as the third leading rebounder in the Sun Belt at 9.6 per game, Jekabson only grabbed four rebounds, posting her worst overall outing of the season.

Although they led early, the Golden Panthers simply couldn’t keep pace with the Ragin’ Cajuns, who really got it going mid way through the first half.

“I think we came out in the first half with a good game plan and we got away from it and I thought we got into trouble and we just couldn’t stay in the game for 40 minutes,” Russo said.

Led by first team All-Sun Belt performer Yolanda Jones, who posted her second double-double in three games this season against the Golden Panthers with 17 points and 11 rebounds, the Ragin’ Cajuns took the lead for good with 8:42 remaining in the first half at 16-15 on a Jeanenne Colbert 3-pointer.

“We started out a little slow. We came out of the box a little sluggish,” Ragin’ Cajuns coach J. Kelly Hall said. “FIU rebounded the basketball well early in the game. But after that, we were able to turn it up a notch.”

That was the only 3-pointer of the game for Colbert who finished with 13 points and seven assists.

The Golden Panthers were able to pull to within six with just over two minutes remaining in the first half on a jump shot by sophomore guard Iva Ciglar.

The Ragin’ Cajuns closed the half up by 8, and opened the second half on a 16-3 run over the first 7:25 that buried the Golden Panthers.

The Golden Panthers will head into next season without their starting center Lasma Jekabsone. Junior guard LaQuetta Ferguson, the team’s leading scorer, will return next year.

“Hopefully the young guys will step up,” coach Kelly Hall said.

The Ragin’ Cajuns ended the Golden Panthers’ tournament run.