Officer Frank Torres, Police Benevolent Association representative

It’s working the same way as before ... The radio system works poorly, period. It’s going to get somebody hurt.

RADIO, page 1

Students win at UN conference

MARIA CHERCOLES
Asst. News Director

As representatives of Slovenia’s World Food Program Committee, Christian Ochoa and his FIU team partner, had to evaluate Slovenia’s resources to finally reach an agreement with Russian and Ukrainian representatives – two of the toughest negotiators present at the meeting.

But the duo wasn’t really creating diplomatic relations. They were pretending.

Ochoa was one of the 17 students who attended the National Model United Nations in New York March 19-25. After a week of global discussions and negotiations simulating the real United Nations, the FIU team won all the awards it was competing for: Outstanding Delegation and Outstanding Position.

“There are a lot of countries in the committee, even some you don’t have a good relationship with, so you have to find what you are going to work with,” Ochoa said about the discussions.

Denmark, France, China, India and Slovenia were some of the countries with which the FIU team had better luck negotiating with, Ochoa said.

Every day, the students tried to pass resolutions addressing regional conflicts, peacekeeping, human rights, economic and social development, the environment, and other issues relevant to the country they are representing. The FIU team was assigned to represent the central European country of Slovenia.

They attended the conference in New York as part of a three-credit political science class offered every Spring semester, called Model United Nations. Aaron Ramirez taught the class this year.

“The focus of the class is teaching students how to research, how to write, public speaking and negotiating skills,” Ramirez said. “Then they go to the conference to practice everything they learned,” Ramirez said.

However, acceptance into the class is very competitive. More than 75 students applied, and only 17 were accepted.

MODEL UN, page 4

Charity raises funds for foreign group

Ben F. Badger Jr.
Staff Writer

In an effort to help an array of charities around the world, Charity Ball International is holding its fourth annual fundraising drive. This year’s beneficiary is Centro de Educacion para la Salud Integral, an education center in the Dominican Republic.

Each year, CBI helps a different charity. This year, the charity event is under the direction of Jasmine Flores.

CESI is a charity organization in the Dominican Republic that is responsible for the building and maintaining of community centers that provide poor communities a place to receive medical care, have social gatherings and educational affairs, among various other services.

Choosing CESI was a tough choice this year, according to Flores. Eleven other charities from China, Latin America and other countries were being considered during the voting process of what organization would be funded by CBI this year.

“It was over an hour of voting,” Flores said.

Every November, a committee is formed to decide the CBI beneficiary. Old and new members are welcomed to join the committee and discuss the issues facing countries around the world.

The ball will be held April 7 in the Graham Center Ballroom at 7 p.m. The cost of admission for students will be $15 for one ticket and $25 for two tickets. Cost for faculty and non-FIU students will be $25 for one ticket and $40 for two. All proceeds will be donated to CESI.

“It is where we get most of our money for the charity,” Flores said.

But the ball isn’t just a way to make money for the charity. Attendees are also expected to have a little fun. Besides the music and food, Flores said there will be salsa and merengue dancing, a slideshow and two keynote speakers.

CHARITY, page 2

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www.beaconnewspaper.com

GONE TO GHANA

DAILY DUTIES: Children in a shantytown near the Ghanan capital of Accra perform everyday chores such as carrying water to their homes and caring for their younger siblings. FOR FULL STORY, SEE PAGE B.
communicate with each other,” he said.

According to Leidy Cabrera, accountant to Public Safety, nothing substantial has been spent on the radio system since the change in vendors. Cabrera explained that Code 3 Technology was not paid in full since its agreement was not carried out, and that leftover funds had been used to finance the new vendor.

Although no additional funds have been spent, in December Public Safety submitted a funding request for $150,000 to the University as a strategic initiative, according to Claudia Paz, director of strategic development.

“That was to serve as a back-up,” King explained, “in case we had to do something different with the radio system.”

In a second interview held March 29, King said he was in the process of obtaining an independent consultant. He said the University would issue a Request for Proposal, an invitation for companies to submit proposals and bid for a contract.

“Don’t have an estimated time-line, but I would say we are anxious to have the system up and running,” King said.

“Because it’s frustrating because [Public Safety] can’t seem to get a grasp on what the problem is so that officers can effectively and consistently communicate with each other,” he said.

There are several sponsorship levels. A donation of $500 will earn you the rank of Golden Panther, $250 Silver Panther, $100 Bronze Panther, $50 Blue and Gold, and $25 Friend of the Charity Ball. Of course the CBI welcomes donations exceeding $500.

Those wishing to donate to CBI, contact Flores at 305-348-9995 or at jfloro011@fiu.edu or for more information visit their MySpace profile at www.myspace.com/charityballinternational.
In a unanimous decision, the University Media Board selected Charlie Grau as The Beacon's new editor in chief and Pablo Penton as WRGP's new general manager March 29.

Grau – the paper's current sport's editor – ran against Beacon staffers Ben Badger Jr. and Christopher Necuze.

"I would like to continue the level of excellence The Beacon has achieved this past year and raise the bar for those who follow," Grau said. "Honestly, I feel very happy and grateful for this opportunity and hope to accomplish much in the upcoming year."

Penton – WRGP's current traffic and training director – ran against Tom Morris and Dan Molluzzo, interim general manager. Grau will replace C. Joel Marino, who has been editor in chief since Fall 2006.

"He’s had experience writing a wide range of stories, so I know maintaining the quality of the paper’s content will be his strongest point," Marino said. "Grau has worked at The Beacon since 2006. In a competitive race, Grau and Penton demonstrated clear visions for the future of student media," said Alfred Soto, assistant director of Student Media. Like Grau, Penton has also been working at the radio station since 2006. Penton – whose on-air name is “P. Duffman” – has a '60s and '70s rock show on WRGP that airs Thursdays at 6 p.m. The name was inspired by a character on "The Simpsons."

"I was very nervous going in front of the Media Board, but I had prepared a lot," Penton said. "I’d like to reach out to other student organizations and make the student radio station a forum of University information."

The Media Board, the entity supervising both The Beacon and WRGP, consists of Lillian Kopenhaver, Dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and faculty members of SJMC as well as other South Florida professionals with experience in media and media law.

Robert Jaross, director of Student Media, says the Media Board had the pleasure of interviewing three outstanding candidates for general manager this term.

"Penton wowed the Media Board with his presentation, and I'm looking forward to working with him at the radio station that The New Times rated ‘Miami’s Best,’" Jaross said.

FIU’s radio station has had a long history of challenges since its first transmission 20 years ago, when its signal wasn’t strong enough to reach University Park. Today, WRGP has a staff of about 50 student deejays and directors, who are heard across Miami thanks to a new translator that was placed on top of the Green Library last year. Soon, students at the Biscayne Bay Campus will also be able to tune in.

Among the challenges Penton will face as the general manager is carrying out the plans of installing a translator at BBC, which would increase the station’s reach to orth Miami-Dade and south Broward.

"That’s my biggest goal ... reaching out to BBC students," Penton said.

A 39-or-plus-hours-a-week job, the role of The Beacon’s editor-in-chief has also had some changes since the student newspaper first came out in 1990, back when it was only published once a week.

Before The Beacon, however, there were other student newspapers.
MODEL UN, page 1

Students create mock resolutions for Slovenia

EN FRANÇAIS

NEWS NEEDS YOU!!!
Apply in GC 210 or WUC 124
Student braves cold weather, nursing mom to protest war

From having to share one camera in high school to teaching their work exhibited in the United States and other countries such as Japan, Eduardo del Valle and Mirta Gómez never worried about their future as photographers.

“We never think of it in those terms. We never get enough. Right now we’re still learning,” del Valle said.

As associate professors of art and photography at FIU, del Valle and Gómez involve each other in every aspect of their lives.

The couple have been married 37 years, worked together within the photography profession for 35 years, and taught classes together at FIU for the past 24 years.

According to del Valle, working together was not something that he and Gómez had initially planned.

“Just sort of happened because when we first began working we were sharing one camera. So at one point, the pictures were so much the same that we couldn’t tell who made what. And that’s how it started. We didn’t even know it was a collaboration,” del Valle said.

When the couple realized they could distinguish their work in their photographs, they began to request to have both their names attributed to their work.

This later led them to agree to a collaboration of the del Valles.

Gómez said their work ethic has also integrated into their teaching style.

“It gets to the point where the students don’t even ask [why they have two teachers]. It’s so seamless,” she said.

Born in Cuba, the couple eventually moved to the United States when they were children.

Although they did not meet until high school, both del Valle and Gómez dealt with language barriers by communicating through visual means.

“People communicate verbally. That’s the main focus of getting your message across and understanding things ... Then your main mode of communication and understanding a new culture becomes something else. In our case, it was visual,” Gómez said.

They both agree that working with beginning photography students is one of their biggest challenges and greatest rewards.

“They are the best because they have to live with the fact they are going to have to shoot something without even thinking about it. Most students have never really operated a piece of equipment thinking they’re going to make art. It’s very rewarding,” Gómez said.

Del Valle and Gómez have received many grants in order to further their work.

Some of these fellowships have come from the Oscar B. Cintas Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

One of the main goals del Valle and Gómez have is to publish their photographs, while different writers provide the text for the books.

The couple has three previous books published by the Nazarene Press.

The photographs in their book Between Rans (2006) were taken in Dongguan, China, while they were overseeing the production of their book Fried Waters (2005), and when most printing houses are located.

Between Rans is comprised of photographs taken at the Hing Yip printing plant in Dongguan, during the couple’s article “dead time,” or the time when a book is on press, between the approval of one printing form and the time the artist is waiting to see the next printing form.

“Every photographer’s dream or fantasy is to go to press and see your book ... because you’re in control of any change that occurs,” del Valle said.

The couple’s upcoming monograph, On View, will be taken in the Yucatan.

“Like photography, [it’s] very intuitive. You always learn. What you think you’re going to see this way, it turns out to be the other way. The books can be used in our bodies in a situation where we know it would be interesting to work. But then once you’re there, you look through a viewfinder, [and] things are always different than what you see in a three-dimensional way,” del Valle said.

Locally, the couple’s work from their books can be seen in an exhibition at the Chelsea Gallery,羽 Wynwood, located at 2441 NW Second Ave. in Miami.

The exhibition continues through April 7 in recognition of the 44th National Conference of the Society for Photographic Education.

“Students have to learn. [As professors] you have to be a working and engaged artist. You have to be interested and passionate in what you do. Otherwise, what good are you to our students?”

How do they feel their passion?” Gómez said.

Student braves cold weather, nursing mom to protest war

I guess that’s what experiences feel like: a 50-foot wall of water crashing upon you, purifying you yet leaving you frozen and half-dead right where you stand.

I haven’t shared that small observation yet, leaving you frozen and half-dead right where you stand.

I was there with him and now he is dead.”

I was traveling with my boyfriend, regardless of the other Salvadoran girl traveling with me, made her bless herself twice.

We tend to guilt-trip very well as Catholics. But I was feeling much better at Snow Day for the rest of the week.

Del Valle said it’s important for any professor to publish books in order to use their experience to better teach and engage their students.

“As a photographer, if you don’t do your research, if you don’t exhibit your work, if you don’t publish it, then how can you translate that information to students if you’re not transmitting something that you preach or something that you do?” he said.

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How do they feel their passion?” Gómez said.

We were spoiled Miamians without an inkling of cold weather. More whining ensued when it reached 30 degrees on Friday night, and after the initial “oohing” and “aahing” at the cold white powder sprawling around our shivering bodies, the middle of Chautauqua, we said “[Expletive] that!” and crammed ourselves into an Audi, speeding off, looking for a warmer place.

While trying to stay warm, I began to wonder how many people actually knew where Iraq was.

I tossed around these thoughts in my head while listening to Melinda Arredondo speak about the deceased stepson Alexander Scott Arredondo.

“He paid for his dental, his health, his school,” she spoke, her voice breaking in a fit of maternal pain and militant passion. “He was my son, I was there with him and now he is dead.”

Behind the conservative climate comprised mostly of leather jacket clad men of the “incredibly religious southern persuasion”...
New club represents gay students

Paula Acuña Contributing Writer

History, information and sociability are the three main characteristics that describe Stonewall 2, according to Daniel Anzueto, its president and sophomore majoring in psychology.

The club for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning students, known as the LGBTQ community, meets every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center, room 141, which is the Campus Life office conference room.

Currently, the club has 10 regular members.

The new club’s purpose is to reach the gay community in the Biscayne Bay Campus, but it is also open to all students who are allies or friends and are not part of the heterosexual community.

“The of the five members of the board are not gay or lesbian, they are just friends who support us; they are allies,” Anzueto said.

The club held an informational campaign March 27 and 28 named “LGBTQ One on One Housing Education.” Its aim was to educate students at Bay Vista housing about the lifestyle of the LGBTQ community.

Anzueto said that other projects of the club involve participation in the Pride Fest by the end of March and raising funds for the AIDS walk by the end of April.

The club at BBC is connected to Stonewall Pride Alliance, the club at University Park created in 2002.

Michelle Gonzalez, the club’s vice president and a junior majoring in humanities, hopes both clubs can have joint activities.

“We are planning a get together at the bay with the two Stonewall clubs. We are expecting more people to get motivated to come after this activity,” Gonzalez said.

Anzueto agreed.

“The idea is not to make people choose between the UP club and the BBC club, but to do things together,” said Anzueto.

Anzueto and Gonzalez said both clubs share the same webpage, which is www.up.edu/spride. Stonewall 2 also has a group on Facebook and on MySpace.

The name Stonewall comes from the name of a gay and lesbian bar in Greenwhich Village, New York.

On June 28, 1969, the police went in the bar to arrest its patrons. A group stood against the police during that night and the riots continued for several nights.

“(It) is an important place and historic event for the LGBTQ community,” Anzueto said.

“The club is open not only for members of the LGBTQ community, but also for those who want equalities for everyone. It’s about LGBTQ awareness through community events like raising funds for the AIDS walk,” Gonzalez said.

However, Anzueto is expecting the club to grow, as “more students from the LGBTQ community start to come out and go to the meetings.”

“They are not coming because we started the meetings by the end of the Spring semester, but I’m hoping to see more people coming during the summer,” Gonzalez said.

The club has posted fliers around campus with the time and place where they meet, and is trying to spread the word through the LGBTQ community to recruit more people.

The meetings are informational and social. They share news relevant to the LGBTQ community and discuss them. They also review history, such as the meaning of the upside down pink triangle, which is a gay symbol.

“We dedicated the last meeting before Spring Break to plan our get together at the bay. We had a great time,” Gonzalez said.

According to Vicky Owles, the club’s advisor and assistant director of Campus Life for BBC, the group has been “warmly welcomed by the administration.”

This has been Anzueto’s first time creating a club. He said he received support from Owles; A.J. Costa, a graduate assistant working on LGBTQ issues through MPAS at UP; and Kathy Akens, the assistant vice president of Student Affairs.

“We are different, yes, but we are still people, and we have a right to be represented by a club,” Anzueto said.

PROTEST, page 5

Protestor contemplates Iraq conflict

PROTEST, page 5

Amir Anwar set himself for a counter protest support program.

The march began in front of the Lincoln Memorial and ended at the Pentagon. The lead banner of the march, “U.S. Out of Iraq Now!” was grasped by Cindy Sheehan, peace activist and mother of a fallen soldier and Cynthia McKinney among others involved in the anti-war protest.

The walk took about 30 minutes back across National Bridge and Kansas by U.S. attorney general under former president Lyndon B. Johnson, and one of the founders of ANSWER National Chapter were our walking partners.

At the Pentagon, marchers rallied in the parking lot; we weren’t allowed to get any closer. We saw Pentagon Riot Squad advancing on protestors loitering on the hill, wanting to get closer to the ultimate bastion of military intelligence. Fortunately, no tear gas flew and no blows were dealt.

It was warmest in the crowd. Posters stuck in sharp contrast against the sky with the occasional paper mache Bush head on a spike. Some kids from FIU’s Bolivarian Youth served as security between the stage and the crowd. We had started our day at 11:30 a.m., some even earlier. It was now 4:30 p.m. It felt good, empowering and maniac.

Our moody protest was sprinkled by Palestinian Kebabs, pin splattered jackets, Iraq war and Vietnam veterans, mothers, ex-politicians, a man who looked suspiciously like Woody Allen and these two hippies, one of which was wearing a fishnet shirt but didn’t even shiver while he played his banjo in the middle of a field. In the end, our numbers ranged from 10,000 to 20,000. It would have been more, but due to weather, many supporters were stuck on buses and delayed flights.

We saw no means expected to end the war at that very moment.

Still, we exerted a basic right in voicing our contempt when things have taken an Orwellian turn and saying “bomb” or “terrorist” on the phone can put you at risk.

SGC-BBC Notes

March 28, 2007

Call to Order: 3:42 p.m., Adjournment: 5:03 p.m.

President (Camilo Silva)

• Deadline to apply for an SGC-BBC position has passed.

• There are issues regarding Panther Express Shuttle transportation under the new schedule. Next meeting there will be implemented in regards to the bus/schedule issue.

Vice President (Brent Maxim)

• We just recently wrapped up our budgetary deliberations. The money that pays us in Student Government was cut by half. “Next year… all positions are going to be paid less.” Reason behind the change was to give more money to departments on-campus. Concerns should go to Brent Maxim, Camilo Silva, Zachary Trautenberg and Gabriel Labrador. They will help to address the issue.

• Maxim: “A salary shouldn’t be a motivation for anyone interested in student leadership.”

Comptroller (Zach Trautenberg)

• All the student representatives should be here next week to go over final budget approval.

Cabinet reports - Kenasha Paul, Panther Power Director

• Candidates debate for the representatives is April 4 at 12:30 will be held in Panther Square. Candidates will present their platforms. Campaigning starts April 4.

Compiled by Jessica SOS

(Visit www.beaconnewspaper.com for further notes)
American culture lacks positive female role models

JOSE MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

With the rise of women to uncharted planes in the workforce and the gradual loosening of moral boundaries on women over the past few decades, there has been an overwhelming surge of positive change for women in American society.

However, in tandem with this new freedom, there has been a profound emphasis on sexuality, and women have seen themselves become portrayed as mere objects of lust in various mediums, including film, printed materials, and television. We have seen the emergence of a new breed of women: uninhibited party animals and flamboyantly sexual exhibitionists. Stars such as Paris Hilton, Nicole Ritchie, Lindsay Lohan, and most vividly Britney Spears, have become glamorized by the tabloids as arguably the highest-profile celebrities in the United States today.

Little attention has been paid to the overwhelmingly negative effect that such role models can have on the female youth of our nation.

The unhealthy lifestyles of these women have been frighteningly apparent, as evidence of substance abuse, eating disorders and countless other maladies have arisen as a direct result of all this unceasing press coverage.

For instance, most individuals who keep track of the news have become aware of the fact that former pop star Britney Spears has been in and out of various rehab facilities for substance abuse.

This serves merely as a stark reminder of the detrimental effects that a lifestyle of incessant parties and nights filled with binge drinking can have on a young woman.

Television and magazines have become so saturated with images of these women that they are hardly avoidable.

It seems to me, however, that the press coverage of this debauched crop of women is propagating substance abuse among young girls who lack apt parental figures and have a minimal degree of parental control restricting their choices.

The problem has intensified to the point where women are beginning to comprise a sizable portion of our nation’s substance abusers.

In a recent survey of the problem, it was found that women accounted for 31.5 percent of the nationwide admissions to substance abuse treatment.

The 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) yielded far more frightening results, showing that approximately 41.6 percent of women ages 12 or older reported using an illicit drug at some point in their lives. This is a higher proportion than at any other time in history.

Further effects that have resulted from this drought of positive female role models are a growing prevalence of scandalous, arguably seductive forms of dressing amongst young women.

A great deal of the blame, if not all of it, can be placed on the parents.

It is of utmost importance that a more responsible and considerate form of parenting emerges. For there has never been a greater deterioration of decency in all facets of life.

Great care must be used by parents to ensure that their daughters are not influenced by the negative female figures that are dominating the media.

It is my belief that the media should focus on more positive female role models, who can at least impart some laudable and desirable moral values on the emerging generation of female youth.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at University Park, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beaconopinion@yahoo.com. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words.
ON EXHIBIT: “Aesthetics and Values,” an art exhibition presented by students from the Honors College, will be showing at the second floor gallery at the Green Library until April 18.

Honors College exhibit challenges art perception

BEN F. BADGER JR.  Staff Writer

There are many different forms of art, ranging from the simple portraits and landscapes to the molding and warping of metal. Third year Honors College students have brought what some may consider a more controversial art to FIU with their “Aesthetics & Values 2007” exhibit under the direction of professor John Bailly.

The exhibit was unveiled on March 16, to the pleasure of its Honors College student curators, to challenge how people perceive art.

Located on the second floor of the Green Library, the exhibit features controversial artwork, including various nude photographs and other pieces that some may consider bizarre.

“The exhibit, to me, is an amazing accomplishment by our entire class,” said curator Rocio Perez. “I’m not used to seeing nude women as soon as I walk into a library. But let’s consider the fact that these women are cutting themselves up for the exhibition.”

During the initial phases, Honors College curators set out to find local artists willing to have their work on display at FIU, an arduous, but fulfilling task according to curators. By the time each piece was set up, student curators were completely responsible for the “Aesthetics & Values 2007” exhibit.

“It makes me feel all warm and fuzzy inside about the insights the Honors College [students] have certainly gained by dealing with Values and Aesthetics in such a direct way,” said artist Bill Maguire.

There was also a more graphic display by Samantha Salzinger. Salzinger’s work, which became the de facto icon of the exhibit, consists of photographs of people undergoing plastic surgery as well as several nude photographs. When asked if she thought her work was too risqué, her reply was a simple “no.”

“Confrontational, yes … too confrontational, maybe. But let’s consider the fact that these women are cutting themselves up for the sake of beauty … and don’t we see this all over the television anyhow?” Salzinger said.

Other artists also consider the pieces displayed to be completely within the bounds of acceptability.

“I do not feel that any work in the exhibition is too risqué,” said artist Barry Sparkman. “One of the important functions of art is to challenge and expand the way that viewers see the world. None of the nudity is pointless or gratuitous.”

“Aesthetics & Values 2007” will culminate with a reception April 4, where the exhibit curators will be explaining the meaning behind each piece of art. In addition, the actual artists of each work will be present.

“The artists being present] is great since a lot of the times you have no idea what the art really means,” Perez said.

The reception will be more like an opening night at a gallery, according to curators. It will begin at 5 p.m. in the Green Library in front of the exhibit and will last until 8 p.m.

There will also be a special discussion with artist Xavier Cortada April 11 at 12:30 p.m. in the Deuxieme Maison building, room 100. During the panel, students will be able to have one-on-one time with Cortada to inquire about his artwork and art in general. The panel is open to the public.

The “Aesthetics & Values 2007” exhibit will end April 18. Artists on display also include Carlos Betancourt, Cliffon Childree, Julie Kahn, Clive King, Gretchen Scharnagl, Wendy Wischer and Carlos De Villasante.

As soon as I walked out of the plane and my feet touched the tarmac floor, Ghana became my home.

My feet still remember the hard red clay roads, picking up dust that stuck to all parts of my sandal. My eyes acknowledged the fruit trees surrounding large homes and the high, fortress-like walls. Even now I still dream of people’s smiles and strangers’ glances, especially those of the children.

While visiting the African country during Spring Break, I sensed their contentment, and I found that these people have a joy of living that seemed miraculous under some of the circum-
stances that they were in.

Yet, this happiness was rooted in the struggles they faced as a people: throughout their lives these experiences bring sorrow, giving birth to strength.

I still feel the childrens’ hands in mine as they showed me around their communities my first week in the city. Their stories were sometimes the most heartwrenching and yet, their smiles were also the most honest.

Tales varied: some were runaways, leaving home at a young age because of abuse. They left to fend for themselves because it was just too much. Many of the girls were sexually abused from the age of 10 and then made it their livelihood because otherwise they would starve.

The smaller ones looked like they just knew too much about the world – they were as young as 6 years-old.

Our purpose in Accra was to meet their needs the best way we could. Six individuals, including myself, were going to host a Vacation Bible School for some of these children at an orphanage called The Beautiful Gate. Pastor Ben Kote and his wife Beatrice began their mission in life with Ghana’s street children because Ben felt it was his vocation, a true calling by God, to serve – to provide a place for them when no one else would.

My first night there, we had more than 100 kids running around, laughing and singing worship music. Lights were rare on the road, but I could see them waiting. Only so many children actually lived at the Center, while the rest would trickle in through the open gate. I felt nervous. What if they didn’t like us? What if they didn’t have fun? Or worse, what if they didn’t come back?

Yet, they did come back. Night after night they returned, according to Ben; some slept on the concrete floor of the pavilion to wait for us.

Our lesson for the week was to teach them love. Corinthians 13: “Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast…”
GAME

Tekken 5

LUIS H. GARCIA
Staff Writer

Just as “Virtua Fighter” introduced 3-D fighting games into our culture, Namco’s “Tekken” arrived to give competition to Sega’s Sonic the Hedgehog. Both original franchises in the arcades and home consoles. Both original games have been compared to give competition to Sega’s Sonic the Hedgehog. Namco’s “Tekken” arrived to introduce 3-D fighting games into our culture, thereby centering on his performance and his lyrics are as raw and his producers, Salaam Remi (who returns from Frank, Winehouse’s first album) and Mark Ronson (who has successfully worked with Christina Aguilera and Robbie Williams), made Back to Black sleeker and more theatrical than Winehouse’s first album. But it’s the incredible juxtaposition of the music and her vocals that make Back to Black stand out from among recent female vocalists. Winehouse’s vocals manage to stand out from the music which feels too old. In “Tears Dry on Their Own,” Motown’s “Ain’t No Mountain High” is almost sampled. Classic background “doo wops,” common in female groups of the 60s, are heard throughout the album. Winehouse manages to seem young among the overstated music, a feat that makes the album a must-listen.

Her persona makes her believable: she sings about refusing rehab (in the appropriately titled “Rehab”), and immediately, the listener knows that the real meat of the game is top-notch. “Tekken 5: DR” continues the tradition of great fighting action for both newcomers and veterans and the low price point makes the deal even sweeter.

PlayStation Portable owners can also pick up the equally impressive portable version of the game for fighting on the go.

MUSIC

Amy Winehouse – Back to Black

ANA DAVIS
BBC Assistant

She’s an admitted wino, a tabloid magnet and a powerful singer – Amy Winehouse is an artist unlike any current performer. Her sophomore album Back to Black, released in the United States March 13, is an honest tale of heartache.

After winning Best Female Solo Artist at the Brit Awards, Winehouse received major attention from the U.S. music scene. The album was released after much publicity centering on her performance antics caused by too much alcohol consumption. Around the time of the album’s stateside release, Winehouse cancelled two consecutive gigs in London (both allegedly due to “unforeseen circumstances”), later admitting that she was too drunk to perform. In another alcohol-related incident, she ran off a London stage mid-show to vomit. This time, she didn’t finish the set.

All this is easily forgiven, however, because Winehouse is among the great female talents of her generation.

In Back to Black, Winehouse’s influences are too obvious: girl groups of the ’50s and ’60s. Her voice is as soulful as Aretha Franklin’s and her lyrics are as raw as Alanis Morissette’s post-Dave Coolie-breakup days. Her producers, Salaam Remi (who returns from Frank, Winehouse’s first album) and Mark Ronson (who has successfully worked with Christina Aguilera and Robbie Williams), made Back to Black sleeker and more theatrical than Winehouse’s first album. But it’s the incredible juxtaposition of the music and her vocals that make Back to Black stand out from among recent female vocalists. Winehouse’s vocals manage to stand out from the music which feels too old. In “Tears Dry on Their Own,” Motown’s “Ain’t No Mountain High” is almost sampled. Classic background “doo wops,” common in female groups of the 60s, are heard throughout the album. Winehouse manages to seem young among the overstated music, a feat that makes the album a must-listen.

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Theater department ends 2007 season with two dramatic plays

ANGELINA ESPOSITO
Staff Writer

The FIU theater season will break ground this Spring semester with the productions of *Proof* and *Silence*. Unlike their most recent predecessor, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, the two are neither musicals nor comedies. The performances will add something new for the theater department: usually one production runs consecutively for two weeks but these productions are implementing a rotation performance schedule. Basically one play will perform one night and the following night the other performs.

According to Stephen Neal, business manager and instructor for the theater department, the choice was made to further the students education. “As far as I know it’s the first time we’ve done rotating rep,” Neal said. “We’re doing it to give our students the experience of performing in a rotating repertory set so when they get out in the real world they’ll have it under their belts.”

And according to some students the experience is appreciated.

“I think it’s a really interesting idea. I’m waiting to see what happens when the actual show goes up. I think it will bring people’s attention,” said Juan Espinosa, who will be acting in *Proof*. “It’s really cool to be doing two shows at one time. It’s a good experience.”

*Silence* has been described as a “dark, sexy medieval fairy tale” by its director Tracey Moore, assistant professor and head of voice and movement for the School of Theater. However there isn’t much to say about this production since the goal has been to keep most of it a secret. The cast are under strict agreement to remain “silent” and not to divulge any plot twists or other information.

However, one thing the cast discussed was their bonding as the show has progressed and excitement for the show’s performances. “We have become a family through this production. We came in as just acquaintances and we’ve become much closer through the rehearsal process.”

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We emphasized God’s love, not the pseudo love some might have given them, not the apathy and even anger they experience at home.

We showed them the true meaning of unconditional love through our actions, through our hugs and through our words.

Some weekend, the Center shuttled the children in from the streets in a van the Kotes would pay for. Most weekends, they brought the kids to have a church service with them, feeding them and clothing them if they could.

The children’s faces soon became familiar to me – so did their hugs. There were so many kids that some had to sit on the floor while we had puppet shows because the pavilion was so small. I was in charge of games and always ended the night sweaty, dusty and smiling.

These kids became my heart, and at the end of every night, my hearts gathered themselves up hand in hand, some carrying their sibling to spend their night in their home, out on the street.

I find solace in the fact that for a few hours each night for a week, these faces of the street that no one glances at were finally able to be what they are — children.

– For more pictures from Cristela’s trip to Africa, log on to www.beaconlife.com
“Sexy medieval fairy tale” among spring theater offerings

said Michael Leon, who plays King Ephelred in the production.

Although a lot of the play has been kept secret, several characters seem to parallel the medieval romance The Adventures of Silence. Whether or not the modern play will follow true to the medieval one is uncertain.

One piece of information offered was that this is a show meant for mature audiences. It touches upon the subject of sexual identity and includes partial nudity and violent scenes. There may be other subjects not suitable for younger audiences.

Whereas Silence deals with swordplay, Proof, aptly titled, takes a more academic route and incorporates mathematics.

The play, directed by assistant professor Judy Bauerlein, is about a young woman, Catherine, who’s recently deceased father, Robert, is a mathematical genius who’s final years on earth were spent dealing with a mental illness. After his death a young man wants to go through Catherine’s father’s notebooks in hopes of finding a mathematical breakthrough. The conflict arises when Hal finds an amazing original mathematical proof and Catherine claims that she’s the author, not her father.

The play focuses on Catherine and her battles with an overbearing sister, a fear of following in her father’s footsteps, medically speaking, and proving the proof is hers.

Many might find this plot familiar because the play was turned into a 2005 movie starring Anthony Hopkins, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jake Gyllenhaal and Hope Davis.

Espinosa commented on having to take on the same role Hopkins portrayed in the film.

“When I first got the role everyone told me I have to live up to Anthony Hopkins,” Espinosa said. “I think every actor has their own take on the part and I wanted to build my own interpretation [But] even thought the two industries are starting to come together they’re still very different.”

The works will be running in rotation April 4 - 15 at 8 p.m. all nights except for Sundays which are 2 p.m. matinee shows. Tickets are $8 for students and $10 for general admission. If interested in attending either play contact the FIU theater box office at 305-348-3789.

“’We’re doing it to give our students the experience of performing in a rotating repertory set so when they get out in the real world, they’ll have it under their belts.”

– Stephen Neal

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Teammates’ friendship stretches across globe

XAVIER E. MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

Freshmen point guard Erick Nsangou and forward Cedric Essola’s friendship lasted over two continents, and several winning and losing basketball seasons. The Cameroon natives first met playing basketball in their home country. After a turbulent season in which several of their teammates left the team or were dismissed, the freshmen duo is ready to enjoy their well-deserved break.

If there was one bright spot about this year, I would say it was their well-deserved break.

“Basketball in Cameroon was beyond the court, each earning a friendship that extends. No experience necessary. We train. Call 305-553-9828.

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Team looking to change custom of early round exits

XAVIER E. MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

While FIU is certainly more talented and better than the opposition that is in the same situation with athletics, it is tough to compete against the schools that can pick and choose who they would like.

“The chance to even compete with these schools and maintain a high ranking over the years is testament to the fantastic job the coaching staff has done. By putting together a group of players who want to make a difference and give back to the community, coach Bernstein has done as much as she can to ensure not just present but future excellence.”

“We girls really get along well with each other, and I think that has a good part to do with the success,” Bernstein said.

And when things don’t go so well between the players, “Coach is always there to sort things out,” Zabala said.

With the home stretch coming in the next month, it will be time for the players to turn in their best performances, starting with one of the most important matches of the year on April 15 against the University of South Florida.

Five days later, it will be the conference championships where the girls will be looking to defend their titles.

Then in just over three weeks the team will play the NCAA Championship.

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Xavier E. Martinez
Rainy weather, heckling strangers among reasons fan loves baseball

With the first pitch of the Major League Baseball season just minutes away (or it may have already passed, depending on when you’re reading this), I thought I’d serve you a treat and give you my five favorite things about baseball season.

Now I know what you’re thinking, “Why should we care what your five favorite things about baseball season are?”

Well, I don’t have a logical answer for that, but I’m going to tell you anyway.

So here they are—in no particular order:

1. WEATHER

This one’s an easy one. I mean, who doesn’t love the weather during the spring?

The signs that the season has arrived include clear skies, mid-70s everyday, and a nice wispy breeze for no apparent reason. But that’s not the weather I’m talking about.

I’m talking about that mid-July weather that goes so well with an afternoon baseball game.

Who doesn’t like a good sweat as the sun hits you on the left side of your body, giving a lovely, uneven tan?

And nothing, absolutely nothing, beats the taste of a $9 beer in those lovely plastic bottles that enhance the flavor so much.

If that isn’t enough, after baking in the sun for two hours, the baseball gods bless us with a nice and cool torrential downpour.

Not only does this downpour cool us off, it also prolongs the game, meaning the baseball fun can sometimes last an extra seven hours.

2. TAILGATING

On those days where MLB decides to get crazy and schedule a night game, there are usually some people who arrive two hours early and proceed to tail gate.

Yes, the food and drink are delectable, but that’s not what’s so special about it.

After a few beers, I love to see guys in their early 40s decide to relive their glory days of high school baseball by playing catch.

The fun really starts when they start telling each other “go-long” and these guys start sprinting for balls as if it were game seven of the World Series.

My toes start to tingle whenever I see one of these guys backpedaling into a barbeque, or better yet, lose a ball in the sun and have it plunk them in the face.

3. HECKLERS

You got to love these guys. Nothing makes a game more enjoyable than a stranger three rows behind you yelling nonsensical musings to everyone from the players, umpires and beer vendors.

They are masters of word usage and creativity with statements such as “You suck, ump. Better get those glasses checked out.” And who doesn’t love, “you throw like a girl?”

These usually non-bathed individuals make the experience so much better for me and those with their families.

4. THE SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

With the game of baseball changing so rapidly (from the fans to the stadium) the players), it’s good to see that this little bit of tradition is staying in tact.

Nothing says “baseball” like singing “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” (because the song is about baseball).

It’s also nice to know that the sport of baseball in general cares about its fans.

I mean, after sitting for six and a half innings, it’s easy to pull a muscle or something if you don’t stretch yourself out.

5. WORLD CLASS ATHLETES

Going to a baseball game can really be a damper to your ego when you see the amazing shape most of these athletes are in.

Some of these guys have such strong abdominal muscles that it looks like their stomach protrudes outward in the shape of a ball.

Some of these same guys with the super strong abs work out so much that they can’t even run.

They’re so sore from working that it looks like they’re waddling along the base paths.

You also have to admire the stamina some of these relief pitchers have. Sitting in the bullpen, making jokes, and farting on one another can easily fatigue any normal person.

I hope you all can look forward to these five things and learn to appreciate the subtleties that make the game of baseball America’s pastime.

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For the women’s tennis team, success has become part of its character. Its not just sought after, but expected.

The highest ranked team at FIU – they cracked the top 25 this past week – has established a winning culture thanks to the relationship teammates have with each other and with their coaches, Ronni Bernstein and Carlos Casely.

The team has compiled an impressive 13-4 record, with two of their losses coming against two teams ranked in the top 10: Florida and the University of Miami.

After beginning the season ranked No. 35, the Golden Panthers have gone up 10 spots and look to continue their ascent.

Bernstein has pulled together an impressive 13-4 record, with two of their losses coming against two teams ranked in the top 10: Florida and the University of Miami.

After beginning the season ranked No. 35, the Golden Panthers have gone up 10 spots and look to continue their ascent.

Bernstein has pulled together an impressive group of talent that not only performs well together, but also sets up the team for future success.

The team has a group of freshmen who are ready to take in the knowledge and experience from the seniors and are ready to dedicate themselves for the next four years to their team.

Having been at the head of the program for 11 years now, Bernstein has become an excellent recruiter, using both the international appeal of FIU and the simple desire of living in South Florida.

“There are so many benefits to playing here aside from being in Miami,” Bernstein said. “The hard schedule that we play every year ensures visibility to the players, and there are so many opportunities to be found.”

It certainly appealed to Maria Pazo, former resident of Rio Cuarto, Argentina, and one of the freshmen that Bernstein has brought in to be part of the program, sporting an 8-3 doubles record and impressive ambition.

Maria hopes to take her skills professionally once her collegiate career is done.

The chance, however, comes from the opportunity that has been provided to her by both the chance to compete at the top college level and the teachings bestowed upon her by her coach.

“We get into a lot of discussions, if that’s what you want to call it,” Pazo said. “Coach always gets through to me, though, and in the end it does nothing but make me a better player.”

While the coaches have certainly done their job in sculpting top players, the old guard of the team, the seniors, have also gone beyond the call of duty in ensuring the young ones are up to the task of competing at the highest level.

However, experience and the simple task of competing is something you can’t teach, and four years of both have netted Paula Zabala an eight-match winning streak, only losing one set over the course of it.

“Experience has made such a difference this year for me. Much of the success this year comes from what I’ve collected over the past four years,” Zabala said.

Having been around for the past two Sun Belt Conference Championships, she hopes to make it three in a row at the end of the year.

Showing the wisdom of an experienced athlete, Paula stresses that nothing can be taken for granted.

“Just because you are ranked high and there are high expectations doesn’t mean you can just walk right in and win,” she said.

Coach Bernstein certainly agrees, taking

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