4-19-2007

The Beacon, April 19, 2007

Florida International University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/310

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and University Archives at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon) by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.
Shootings raise campus safety concerns

C. JOEL MARINO
Editor in Chief

A man enters campus with a gun on a busy school day and no one takes notice until it’s too late. Shots ring out, students panic. The rampage doesn’t seem to end.

The radios are used to dispatch officers to scenes of crimes. The Beacon reported in December and early April that many officers have complained the faulty system could pose safety risks.

“We’re very concerned with the views of the officers, and we want officers to feel confident with the radios, so we’re working on this problem as best we can,” King said.

He also said there is no deadline set for when a new system would be implemented.

If the need arises, local city police officers would be called in to help during emergency situations. According to King, outside police forces can be easily reached.

Pay cut under way for future SGA members

JESSICA SOLIS
Staff Writer

Members of the recently appointed Student Government Council at University Park and the Biscayne Bay Campus will see their pay lowered or eliminated for several positions, due to a budget revision that reduces the salaries of three major organizations within Campus Life. They include the Student Government Association as well as the Student Programming Council and the Student Organizations Council.

According to a document sent to The Beacon via e-mail specifying the pay compensations of SGC-UP for the 2006-2007 school year, the current pay is effective until May 4. The e-mail was sent by Phillip Hamilton, senior clerk for SGC-UP. According to Zachary Trautenberg, outgoing SGC-UP comptroller and finance chair, the current SGC-UP council’s pay stops on April 19.

The University-Wide Budget Council, comprised of nine students who are members of both councils, voted for the pay cut at a March 10 meeting. At least six of the members of the council had to vote for the approval of the pay cut. The 2006-2007 university-wide budget of $10.2 million allowed for $200,000 in pay compensations for SGC at UP and BBC that were evenly split between both campuses and helped pay its respective members. Under the old budget, salaries varied between positions in each campus. According to Trautenberg, who voted against the pay cuts at the budget hearing, the SGC-BBC president made $10,000 this year and the SGC-BBC vice president and comptroller made $7,500 this year. The SGC-BBC cabinet members made $3,000 and the representatives made $2,500 this year.

In the same e-mail sent to The Beacon by Hamilton, SGC-UP salary figures were the same as SGC-BBC.

The revisions made at the March 10 meeting by the budget council reduced the pay compensations to $100,000, which will then be split in half to pay several SGC positions and fund programming of both campuses.

According to members in SGC-UP and BBC, such as Trautenberg, the money saved from reducing pay for student government officials will go to student programming such as concerts, lectures and events that provide free food for students.

Trautenberg believes that cutting a small portion of a large budget will not provide a significant increase in student programming.

Unfortunately, I don’t see that money benefitting the students that much more than helping the students, he said. “If I could tell you that this was a clear benefit to the students, and you were going to have five more concerts a year, I would say I’m all for it, but I don’t see enough upside, unfortunately.”

Newly appointed SGC-BBC President Katrina “Kathy” Saintable, is optimistic for results, but says it cannot be predicted whether the reduced pay will help to improve student programming.

“The more money that’s invested in certain programs and services on campus – if they have the funds to work at their maximum effectiveness, [it] will be something that will benefit the university as a whole,” Saintable said. “We’re hoping that it will pay off in the end.”

The smaller amount allotted to pay compensations reduced the old salaries, but it has not yet been decided by the incoming council how much members of the new council will be paid, since it is the new council which determines

SO YOU KNOW
Possible FIU Emergency Plan of Action

• An officer investigates scene of reported emergency
• If major crisis, all on-duty officers would be dispatched to site
• If crisis worsens, Miami-Dade police would assist
• Plan of action would depend on situation (whether lockdown or evacuation)
• An executive decision would be given to shut down school if necessary, based on recommendations from Public Safety
• Students would be made aware of situation through speakers, phones and mass media

According to King, all on-duty officers would be dispatched to an emergency site if the situation requires it.

However, the department has been using a faulty radio system since last year.

“Yeah, we still have problems with the radio,” said Lt. Frank Tomassini of Public Safety’s investigation unit. “It’s been an ongoing issue with us and it’s still not resolved.”

The radios are used to dispatch officers to scenes of crimes.

The Beacon reported in December and early April that many officers have complained the faulty system could pose safety risks.

“We’re very concerned with the views of the officers, and we want officers to feel confident with the radios, so we’re working on this problem as best we can,” King said.

He also said there is no deadline set for when a new system would be implemented.

If the need arises, local city police officers would be called in to help during emergency situations. According to King, outside police forces can be easily reached.

After the extent of the emergency has been assessed, students would be made aware of an on-campus problem through a recently implemented system called InformaCast.

Recorded messages or live warnings would be broadcast through speakers and university telephone systems if so required.

Before any drastic measures – such as closing off campuses or mass evacuations

are announced, it would be up to the University’s Emergency Management Group to decide proper courses of action.

This group is comprised of representatives from such campus organizations, departments and offices as Student Affairs,}

SAFETY, page 2

Gabriel Lebradora, SGC-BBC Representative-At-Large

I really don’t think that anybody is in student government either at [UP] or here just for the paycheck. Really, it was never that much – you can’t survive on it.

Gabriel Lebradora, SGC-BBC Representative-At-Large

In the same e-mail sent to The Beacon by Hamilton, SGC-UP salary figures were the same as SGC-BBC.

The revisions made at the March 10 meeting by the budget council reduced the pay compensations to $100,000, which will then be split in half to pay several SGC positions and fund program-

of a large budget will not provide a significant increase in student programming.

Unfortunately, I don’t see that money benefitting the students that much more than helping the students, he said. “If I could tell you that this was a clear benefit to the students, and you were going to have five more concerts a year,
FIU reviews emergency protocol

SAFETY, page 1

the Victim Advocacy Center, Public Safety and the Office of Housing and Residential Life, among others. “I want to assure our university community that we have reviewed our extensive emergency response plans and feel that they are appropriate and ready,” FIU President Modesto A. Maimique, a member of the group, said in a university-wide e-mail sent out a day after the shooting. “However, an event such as this requires us to revisit these plans to make sure they cover not only the likely contingencies, but also can adequately address an unimaginable disaster as that which befell Virginia Tech.”

A list of any revisions to these plans was unavailable as of press time. In the meantime, departments such as the Office of Housing and Residential Life are assessing their own emergency plans.

“The first thing we have to keep in mind is the safety of students,” Joseph Mattachione, director of Residential Life, among others. “In the meantime, departments such as the Office of Housing and Residential Life are assessing their own emergency plans. The last time an evacuation took place was last summer when students at Bay Vista housing were bused to University Park in anticipation of Tropical Storm Ernesto. “I can’t really say the specifics of what we’d do until the scenario arises,” Mattachione said. “The most important thing is to be prepared, and then we wait.”

In the issue dated April 12, 2007, a quote by Yong Tao in the story entitled “College of Engineering builds ‘green’ house in China” should have read “It is a distinct honor to be selected by the Chinese government as the only university from the U.S. to participate in the project.”

In the issued dated April 16, 2007, the front page photo of the SGC-UP winners should have been credited to Fernando Garcia and the photo of the SGC-BBC winner should have been credited to Chris Cuto, both Beacon staff.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-248-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

FIU students get top marks on Bar

“Somehow we have done better,” said Jennifer Perez, another law student. “We are just as good as [higher tiered law schools].”

Despite being ranked relatively high the first time around, Spivak believes the College of Law could have been ranked better, but didn’t because it is still a new school.

According to Strickman, the third tier ranking had more to do with the College of Law’s performance than its age. “We are as good as some second tier schools,” Strickman said. “But we’re not as good as the first tier schools, U.S. News is not the Bible.”

With the high rankings the College of Law has received, Strickman hopes it will attract a new batch of law students. In regards to the idea that the College of Law’s age is hindering its reputation, numbers may change everything. “The rest of the world only knows what they read,” Perez said. “[The high scores and tier ranking] helps generate a buzz.”

For a link to the complete tier ranking and Bar results, visit www.beaconnewspaper.com.

BEAT IT

FIU controls emergency protocol

“Somehow we have done better,” said Jennifer Perez, another law student. “We are just as good as [higher tiered law schools].”

Despite being ranked relatively high the first time around, Spivak believes the College of Law could have been ranked better, but didn’t because it is still a new school.

According to Strickman, the third tier ranking had more to do with the College of Law’s performance than its age. “We are as good as some second tier schools,” Strickman said. “But we’re not as good as the first tier schools, U.S. News is not the Bible.”

With the high rankings the College of Law has received, Strickman hopes it will attract a new batch of law students. In regards to the idea that the College of Law’s age is hindering its reputation, numbers may change everything. “The rest of the world only knows what they read,” Perez said. “[The high scores and tier ranking] helps generate a buzz.”

For a link to the complete tier ranking and Bar results, visit www.beaconnewspaper.com.

FIU controls emergency protocol

“Somehow we have done better,” said Jennifer Perez, another law student. “We are just as good as [higher tiered law schools].”

Despite being ranked relatively high the first time around, Spivak believes the College of Law could have been ranked better, but didn’t because it is still a new school.

According to Strickman, the third tier ranking had more to do with the College of Law’s performance than its age. “We are as good as some second tier schools,” Strickman said. “But we’re not as good as the first tier schools, U.S. News is not the Bible.”

With the high rankings the College of Law has received, Strickman hopes it will attract a new batch of law students. In regards to the idea that the College of Law’s age is hindering its reputation, numbers may change everything. “The rest of the world only knows what they read,” Perez said. “[The high scores and tier ranking] helps generate a buzz.”

For a link to the complete tier ranking and Bar results, visit www.beaconnewspaper.com.

FIU controls emergency protocol

“Somehow we have done better,” said Jennifer Perez, another law student. “We are just as good as [higher tiered law schools].”

Despite being ranked relatively high the first time around, Spivak believes the College of Law could have been ranked better, but didn’t because it is still a new school.

According to Strickman, the third tier ranking had more to do with the College of Law’s performance than its age. “We are as good as some second tier schools,” Strickman said. “But we’re not as good as the first tier schools, U.S. News is not the Bible.”

With the high rankings the College of Law has received, Strickman hopes it will attract a new batch of law students. In regards to the idea that the College of Law’s age is hindering its reputation, numbers may change everything. “The rest of the world only knows what they read,” Perez said. “[The high scores and tier ranking] helps generate a buzz.”

For a link to the complete tier ranking and Bar results, visit www.beaconnewspaper.com.

FIU controls emergency protocol

“Somehow we have done better,” said Jennifer Perez, another law student. “We are just as good as [higher tiered law schools].”

Despite being ranked relatively high the first time around, Spivak believes the College of Law could have been ranked better, but didn’t because it is still a new school.

According to Strickman, the third tier ranking had more to do with the College of Law’s performance than its age. “We are as good as some second tier schools,” Strickman said. “But we’re not as good as the first tier schools, U.S. News is not the Bible.”

With the high rankings the College of Law has received, Strickman hopes it will attract a new batch of law students. In regards to the idea that the College of Law’s age is hindering its reputation, numbers may change everything. “The rest of the world only knows what they read,” Perez said. “[The high scores and tier ranking] helps generate a buzz.”

For a link to the complete tier ranking and Bar results, visit www.beaconnewspaper.com.

FIU controls emergency protocol

“Somehow we have done better,” said Jennifer Perez, another law student. “We are just as good as [higher tiered law schools].”

Despite being ranked relatively high the first time around, Spivak believes the College of Law could have been ranked better, but didn’t because it is still a new school.

According to Strickman, the third tier ranking had more to do with the College of Law’s performance than its age. “We are as good as some second tier schools,” Strickman said. “But we’re not as good as the first tier schools, U.S. News is not the Bible.”

With the high rankings the College of Law has received, Strickman hopes it will attract a new batch of law students. In regards to the idea that the College of Law’s age is hindering its reputation, numbers may change everything. “The rest of the world only knows what they read,” Perez said. “[The high scores and tier ranking] helps generate a buzz.”

For a link to the complete tier ranking and Bar results, visit www.beaconnewspaper.com.

FIU controls emergency protocol

“Somehow we have done better,” said Jennifer Perez, another law student. “We are just as good as [higher tiered law schools].”

Despite being ranked relatively high the first time around, Spivak believes the College of Law could have been ranked better, but didn’t because it is still a new school.

According to Strickman, the third tier ranking had more to do with the College of Law’s performance than its age. “We are as good as some second tier schools,” Strickman said. “But we’re not as good as the first tier schools, U.S. News is not the Bible.”

With the high rankings the College of Law has received, Strickman hopes it will attract a new batch of law students. In regards to the idea that the College of Law’s age is hindering its reputation, numbers may change everything. “The rest of the world only knows what they read,” Perez said. “[The high scores and tier ranking] helps generate a buzz.”

For a link to the complete tier ranking and Bar results, visit www.beaconnewspaper.com.
Car thefts drastically increase over two-year period

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
Production Manager

Sisters Catherine and Jillian Torres know all too well what it is like to be the victim of a car crime.

They returned to their Gold Garage parking space March 6 only to find themselves stranded with their 2004 Toyota Tacoma missing.

“We knew exactly where we were parked. This is what I ended up telling the police, later,” Catherine said. “My sister had class from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., so she called me about five minutes later to ask where we had parked. I reminded her we were on the fifth floor of the Gold Garage. She told me that was where she had been looking. Once I went down there, we contacted Public Safety.”

When compared, the numbers of vehicle thefts in 2005 and 2006 show a great disparity, and suggest that incidents like Catherine’s may not be as isolated.

According to the Uniform Crime Report and data provided by Public Safety, campus car crimes have increased by staggering 270 percent from 2005 to 2006.

In years past, car thefts have proven to be a particular problem for Public Safety. From 2004 to 2005, car thefts increased, while other crimes such as burglaries may actually be higher due to the shattering of glass.

“Many of these come from increased student thefts and bus break-ins,” Gloria Acosta, an adjunct senior secretary for the English department, was quoted as saying. “This happened maybe three weeks ago. My hubcaps were stolen. Actually, after the shattering of glass. My hubcaps were stolen.” Acosta said. “This happened maybe three weeks ago. My boyfriend found the car where we had left it, in the Gold Garage. The hubcaps had been taken, the car looked like it had four spares.”

Unlike Catherine, however, Acosta’s first instinct was not to call Public Safety and file a report.

“We would have filed a report if it would have mattered to the insurance company,” Acosta said. “Since there weren’t going to cover them anyway, we figured it didn’t matter to them and therefore it didn’t matter to us. We just had to buy new hubcaps. The company denied the deductible to repair. We had to pay for them. Students whose cars are damaged or broken into may not file a report if they feel that the damage is either not covered by their insurance company or is less than their deductible to repair.

The number of cases of vehicle burglaries may actually be higher due to these incidents like Acosta’s that remain unreported.

King thinks that situations like these are not unique to campus crimes.

“No matter what, we should get information about any kind of crime that occurs on campus,” King said. “I think that there probably is some underreporting, probably in most crimes— not only at FIU and in the University community, but throughout society.”

As Catherine and Jillian will attest, however, filing a report does not necessarily increase your chances of getting your car or stolen belongings back. “The police officer did call me the following weekend,” Jillian said. “He called to ask if we had found [the car]. He also asked for some information and I had to refer him to my dad… it’s been more than a month now and we’ve only received one call.”

A single phone call may seem insignificant to someone who has just lost their car but, as King explains, most stolen vehicles do not remain on campus very long; they are quickly driven elsewhere, beyond the jurisdiction of FIU police.

“In a car theft, particularly here at FIU, if a car is taken it is probably going to take the car away from FIU and there is not much more that can be done after the initial investigation where we check witnesses, possible video, etc.,” King said. “Once the investigation is done here on campus, it’s very difficult to do much more.”

In response to the increase in car crime throughout campus, Public Safety has taken some initiatives in efforts to curb the pandemic.

“We have done a number of things from increasing some patrols in problematic areas,” King said. “Some things we’ve done may not be apparent to the University community, and that may be anything from undercover surveillance and officers to having cameras in certain areas.”

Though these initiatives may have failed in preventing her hubcaps from being stolen, Acosta appreciates the crimes which she says really matter, such as violent crimes, have been steadily declining.

“When it comes to campus security as a whole, they are pretty good about getting most of the crimes that count,” Acosta said. “Even though there is a problem with cars, I much rather them prevent a rape than find a car, and they’re pretty good with that stuff.”
Students miss out on scholarship opportunities

NAHOBE GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

This year, sophomore Hector Nava will join hundreds of other FIU students who will enroll in courses not at University Park or Biscayne Bay Campus, but at universities around the world.

Nava, who came to FIU from Mexico just over one year ago, is a self-proclaimed traveler. He has chosen Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia, as his next destination, and will take courses in industrial engineering during Fall 2007 as an exchange student.

Study abroad programs range in length from one week to an entire academic year, and are available in a number of varied countries such as Ecuador, Czech Republic and Japan — though the most popular destinations are Spain and Australia. Prices also vary, but Nava assures that the sticker price does not reflect the final cost.

"It's really not that expensive," Nava said. "I have to pay for housing and tuition at FIU anyway. It's just the airfare that's expensive, that's it."

For many other students cost does seem to be a deterrent, according to Christine Jarchow Sjoblom, director of the Office of International Studies. Sjoblom, who came to FIU three years ago from Virginia Tech, said that there is "significantly less" interest in international study at FIU than at her former institution.

"I think that is because FIU is a commuter campus, whereas Virginia Tech is a residential campus," Sjoblom said. "But what is strange to me is that although [FIU students] traditionally have fewer financial resources, they don't apply to scholarships."

Sjoblom, who is also the FIU coordinator for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program and the Critical Need Language Supplement — both federal programs — said she is surprised each year at the small number of scholarship applications her office receives.

This year, Sjoblom only received one application for the Gilman scholarship. The scholarship, which grants awards up to $5,000, requires that applicants be U.S. citizens and Pell grant recipients. Sjoblom pointed out that there are "plenty" of eligible students at FIU.

The Critical Need Language Supplement awards an additional $3,000 to students studying Arabic, Chinese, Persian, or other languages chosen by the federal government. There were no applicants for this scholarship at FIU this year.

The Office of International Studies also offers a number of internal scholarships. One is the Edward Pascoe Study Abroad Scholarship, a private scholarship of up to $2,500 for students studying in Genoa, Italy. No one applied this year.

"The donor is not going to be happy when I tell him that we couldn't give the money away because there were no applicants," said Sjoblom. "This application only requires a 500-word essay. When else on earth are you going to be paid $5 a word to write a paragraph?"

Freshman Natalie Touzard, who is majoring in architecture, transferred last semester from the Dominican Republic and is interested in participating in the Art and Architecture program in Genoa next Fall semester.

The estimated program cost is $8,000, which includes housing, studio space, group travel, and some meals. Students must also pay FIU tuition and are responsible for airfare and personal expenses, which are estimated at $5,500.

"I would like to apply for scholarships but I didn't know that I could, [since] I'm not a U.S. citizen," Touzard said. "Thank God I have my parents to pay for it."

According to Sjoblom it's not too late to apply for summer programs and scholarships, and encouraged students with little international experience to follow in Nava and Touzard's footsteps.

"FIU students are mostly from Miami, many of them live at home, and if they really want to see how the world functions outside of Miami, this is their opportunity. Many students tell me they don't need to study abroad because Miami already has a second language and is very international… but we're no Geneva, Shanghai, or London," she said. "If you want to be able to compete in the global market, you have to get out of Miami."
Students look forward to campus renovations

CHRISTINA LEMUS
Contributing Writer

With many improvements underway, the Biscayne Bay Campus is currently in the process of a makeover.

The facilities management department at BBC started working on many projects at the beginning of 2007 including construction plans, new landscaping projects and upgrades on utilities.

"The construction on campus shows a step towards a beautiful campus," said junior Veronica Rivera, "It will make students proud to be a part of BBC."

The primary construction zones on campus are currently in the south end of the Wolfe University Center that leads to Academic I. In this corridor, construction is under way for a new cafeteria and fitness center, which can be seen by looking through a newly erected glass door where a dry wall once stood.

"A bigger and better cafeteria is exciting because it will mean more room and more food, and probably more students will want to eat on campus," Rivera said.

Elie "Elias" Bardawil, associate director of Campus Recreation, Life and Orientation at BBC, was unavailable for comment.

There are also upgrades on the utilities around campus.

Honorio Filimon, coordinator of construction projects for the department of facilities management, mentioned one of the projects would involve renovations within the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. These renovations, which are still in the planning process, will include bathroom renovations, fire alarm upgrades, and replacing the building's roof as well as the primary windows with impact resistant glass.

Students who utilize the building, such as junior Veronica Sanchez, majoring in hospitality and tourism management, may be negatively affected by the future construction in the building.

"The sounds of loud banging may be distracting during class time, so I hope for students that the construction doesn't start until after class hours or [during] summer break," Sanchez said.

A work date for construction within the building is still being discussed. According to Filimon, another future project his team will be working on is the large window on the first floor of the BBC Library.

The window will be replaced with impact resistant glass to prepare for the unexpected Florida weather.

This project, according to Filimon, will cost $100,000 but is a project he considers to be "very beneficial and a good safety precaution for the campus."

Filimon's team will also be working within Academic I replacing damaged doors with new steel doors and renovating the bathroom with fresh paint and fixed utilities.

Filimon said all of the projects he and his team are working on this year will cost approximately over $1 million.

Along with all of the construction being done around BBC, there is also a large amount of landscaping being done. According to the landscapers working outside of Academic II during the first week of April, all of the old and dead grass in front of AC I and AC II will be dug up and replaced with new grass.

Walking alongside both buildings, there were also new fresh flowers planted to help further the beautification process.

According to senior Dennis Hernandez, all of the money going towards the beautification process of BBC as a whole is going to the right places.

"Any money that is used towards improving the campus is money well spent because when the campus looks nicer, students feel more proud attending it," Hernandez said.

Next year's SGA members get pay cuts

SGA, page 1

how its members will be paid. The pay of the new councils for both campuses will be decided over the summer.

"It's up to the new council how they want to do it, but what we came up with was a small guideline for them," Trautenberg said.

According to Trautenberg, the guidelines for SGC-BBC proposed a $6,000 salary for the president and an approximate $1,100 salary for cabinet members and representatives.

The council at UP is leaving it to the new administration to determine payment amounts according to Hamilton during a phone interview.

"As of now, the specific salary for each of the positions hasn't been decided," Hamilton said. "That is to be decided by the next administration."

The reduced pay compensations also eliminated pay for previously held positions in SGC at UP and BBC such as director of technology advancement.

Salaries for several positions in the Student Programming Council and the Student Organizations Council at UP and BBC will also be lowered as well, since their pay depends on the amount the SGC president makes yearly.

According to Trautenberg, at BBC, the SGC and SPC salary is approximately 30 to 40 percent of the SGC president's salary. At UP, it cannot exceed 35 percent, as stated in the SGA constitution. Previously, under the old budget, the SPC-BBC and SGC-BBC presidents made $4,400 yearly. Their new salary will be $3,500, distributed on a bi-weekly basis. Salary distribution for positions that earn less than $1,000 will be split by semester.

Janette Francois, SPC-BBC president, and Vanessa Robinson, SPC-BBC vice president, would not comment on the salary revisions that are being implemented.

Many do not seem to mind the pay cuts and eliminations, such as Pioneer Winter, SGC-BBC student union board member.

"If you like what you're doing, then the pay that you're getting shouldn't matter," Winter said.

Winter did not know his SGC position included pay until a week after he applied.

Other students, such as Gabriel Labrador, outgoing representative-at-large for SGC-BBC, see the paycheck as a perk, but not as the main priority for joining SGC.

"The pay was never a motivation," he said. "I do know that it might not necessarily be the sole motivation, but it might be the extra incentive to work," Labrador said. "I really don't think that anybody is in student government either at [UP] or here just for the paycheck; he said. "Really, it was never that much - you can't survive on it."

Camilo Silva, outgoing SGC-BBC president, was opposed to the pay cuts, but said he sees both sides of the issue.

"When you pay someone, you have accountability in the sense that you can be assured that a student is working," he said. "There's also the other view that the students, when they're involved, they should do it from the heart."
Globe-trotting professor hopes to take it easy after retirement

Two hundred and sixty-five. The number represents how many baseball parks Stephen Fjellman has visited in a lifetime, demonstrated by a U.S. map in his office studded with green thumbtacks. Single, double, AAA, major league – they’re all there. Red thumbtacks represent future visits.

“It’s the perfect game. It’s the only game that theoretically doesn’t have to end and it’s the only game where the defense has the ball,” Fjellman said.

Come July 3, the retiring anthropology and sociology professor will be able to catch more games.

Twenty-nine years ago, Fjellman came from Harvard University as an assistant professor and was immediately drawn to the Biscayne Bay Campus when he first saw the double sized trailers he would be teaching in.

“When I first came here, I thought this place was really cool. They actually offered me a lot of money. I got a significant raise and I thought, ‘God am I lucky,‘” Fjellman said.

His starting salary: $16,000. Since 1978, Fjellman has seen students come and go, and the University grow. Through it all, his mission has remained constant: Teach students to think for themselves and become jack-of-all-trades.

“It’s not just enough to master a discipline. It’s great to master a discipline because you become very good at something but there are no significant issues in the world that are discipline-based; they’re all connected,” Fjellman said.

As one of the founders of the Honors College, Fjellman tries to get students to make connections outside of class through study abroad programs.

Fjellman and John Kneski, associate dean of the Honors College, have sponsored the Italy study abroad program for the past 10 years.

On his first trip to Italy, Kneski recalled that his debit card and credit card weren’t working. Without any hesitation, Fjellman took out $500 from his checking account and gave it to Kneski, whom he had just met on the trip and now considers a best friend.

“I can’t imagine doing the trip with anyone but Steve,” Kneski said. “If you need a friend to talk to, you can’t [find] a better friend than Steve.”

Despite retiring this semester, Fjellman will continue to sponsor the study abroad program.

Aside from plans to travel to Europe and catch some more minor league baseball, Fjellman wants to visit his daughter Melina and grandchildren Tate, 2, and Tyan, 4, who live in California.

“All travel teaches you stuff you didn’t know. It teaches you stuff you didn’t know about places, people, their ways and about their problems,” Fjellman said.

“Everything broadens you. Everything makes you a citizen of the world.”

Despite his baseball excursions around the country, Fjellman has done fieldwork in Mexico, Kenya, Cameroon and Walt Disney World as an anthropologist. His fieldwork in the Magic Kingdom led to the publication of his book, Vinyl Leaves: Walt Disney World and America. This book established the groundwork for Disney studies in colleges and universities throughout the nation.

“He is a vast storehouse of knowledge that you wouldn’t expect,” said junior Amelia Cifone.

Junior Simone Bailey, a sociology student who has taken five classes with Fjellman, said she has learned more from him as a person than from the subjects he teaches in class and appreciates the standards he holds to students.

“He’s a fun guy who is incredibly intelligent and he’s not pretentious and is very down to Earth. He’s remained constant throughout my classes and you can tell he has a passion for what he teaches,” Bailey said.

The Connecticut native learned quickly that his calling was in the classroom. Fjellman served as department chair and associate dean of the Honors College before returning to teaching. After all that, he says he’s relaxed now more than ever.

“I’m pretty happy with the way things are,” he said. “I’ve done all the things I was supposed to do. I grew up, got degrees, married, divorced, had kids, got a job, tenure, published a paper [and] a book, got all the teaching awards the university offers [and] was an administrator who helped build a school. What else am I supposed to do?”
JOY CLAHAR Contributing Writer

The first few days of college are somewhat similar to the first day of kindergarten: almost everyone is wearing their best new outfits, checking out the new territory and meeting new people.

I have experienced different people by varying in ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic backgrounds. The girl sitting next to you may have just arrived from her neighbors at Sack’s or Macy’s, Ross or a thrift store. Your new territory may include a room in the University Park Towers. Your neighbor may be commuting from a three-bedroom apartment he shares with his mother and four younger siblings.

On campus, there is increased sensitivity to issues like AIDS awareness, homosexuality, race relations and gender discrimination. Economic disparity within the student body, however, is a real problem that can be just as divisive as any other.

During my first semester at FIU, a few classmates and I who had arrived early took the time to chat and make friends. These conversations tend to be insubstantial and forgettable, starting with a compliment and some simple commonality. Such was the case with my neighbor and I, at least that’s how it started. It didn’t matter that she was “white” and I was “black.” It ended when she told me that she didn’t have a car. Flabbergasted, she looked at me and asked, “Why?” Perplexed, I looked at her and answered, “Because I can’t afford it.” Although we lived in the same residence hall and saw each other many times in the following year, we never spoke again.

The first few days of college are somewhat similar to the first day of kindergarten: almost everyone is wearing their best new outfits, checking out the new territory and meeting new people.

In the wake of the shoot- ings that took place Monday at Virginia Tech, much criticism has been leveled against university’s police department. Critics say if campus police had done more, acted more swiftly and taken more steps, less young men and women would have died that morning.

The Beacon is in no position to pass judgment on Virginia Tech’s police department. But it is our place to question whether our own FIU Police Department would be prepared to handle a similar emergency if it were to happen here.

Sad to say, the answer seems to be a terrifying “no.”

Over the course of the past year, The Beacon has reported on the woeful deficiencies of FIU’s Department of Public Safety, which includes the FIU Police Department.

FIU’s police department is understaffed, understaffed and ill-equipped. At any given time, there is a small handful of officers on duty to police a student popula- tion of nearly 38,000. What’s worse, faulty radio equipment makes communication among officers difficult at best – and impossible at times. If officers were to ever need to work in tandem, say, in the event of a shooting rampage, coordination would be impossible.

For all of this, there is a reason- able explanation. The shortage of manpower can be accounted for by a lack of adequate funding. The police department simply doesn’t have the money to hire a full-fledged workforce. The faulty radios can be chalked up to a bad decision. It was time for public safety to replace the police department’s aging radio system, and it had to choose one of three options for the upgrade. Ap- parently, it chose the wrong one, and it has been throwing money at external consultants to try and fix the problem ever since.

What’s inexcusable, though, is that FIU doesn’t have a campus-wide emergency plan for a situation like what hap- pened at Virginia Tech. Or rather, it does have a plan, except no one but a couple of people know about it. A day after the Virginia Tech incident, The Beacon met with several top FIU administra- tors to discuss how the university would handle a violent attack. None of them were able to answer the question. The most they were able to do was refer the reporter to the same, single person – Public Safety Chief Bill King.

Amid the chaos of a mass shooting, all university authori- ties should be prepared to work in tandem to secure the campus. There would be no time or oppor- tunity for each of them to wait for a cue from Bill King. If there was any lesson left to us by the tragic events at Virginia Tech, it’s that we also need to be prepared. It’s evident that FIU is not.

That is unacceptable, and FIU administrators need to take immediate, concrete steps to fix it. Public Safety’s budget needs to be revised so it can hire more police officers and give them radios that work. More importantly, everyone on campus – from the president to the incoming freshman class – should know how to handle an emergency at our university.
Cram Jam aims to encourage students via ice cream, massages

GEORGE ANDERSON JR.
Asst. Life! Edtor

Students studying late inside the Green Library on April 23 and 24 can take a break in the Graham Center at Cram Jam, an event hosted during finals week in the fall and spring semesters. The event is a collaborative effort between Student Government Association, Campus Life, GC, the Panther Card Office and the Porter Davis Game Room.

Throughout the two days, FIU students can get an array of items and services at no cost, including Coldstone ice cream, Rockstar energy drinks, blue books and massages. In addition, Fresh Food Company will be open from 11:45 p.m. to 1 a.m. providing free breakfast food to hungry crammers and the first floor of the library will remain open for 24 hours.

"With the cramming and the stress, it’s imperative that SGA does something to help students as the end of the semester nears," SGA Marketing Coordinator Jean Roseme said.

According to Roseme, one major difference from previous Cram Jams is the operating hours of the game room, which will be open from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. on both days.

"Last year, the game room wasn’t open during finals," Roseme said.

Because of the "first come, first served" event policy, it is recommended that students arrive early to GC in order to take advantage of the giveaways, according to Roseme.

Sophomore Gabriela Morales, who is majoring in education, views Cram Jam as a needed break during one of the most stressful weeks of a semester.

"It’s a good stress reliever and you don’t have to go very far from your study area," Morales said. Other students such as sophomore Alvaro Quiñones find the event useful but somewhat distracting.

"People should be studying during finals," Quiñones said. "You should leave the loud music for afterwards. Free food and coffee are good because people need it, but the music is a bad idea because it distracts people’s focus."

Anyone who wishes to partake in the free food and services must show a valid Panther Card. For students who misplaced their ID or require a duplicate, the Panther Card Office will be open from 11 p.m. - 1 a.m. during Cram Jam and will offer $5 for duplicate IDs, which normally cost $15.

TRIVIAL PURSUIT, page 10

Summer brings fun in sun, horrible sequels

Summer is more than a month away but in Hollywood, it’s going to be here in two weeks. The most important and lucrative period in the film industry, the summer movie season is when movie studios launch their biggest, most bloated and flashy films, all fighting for number one in the box office.

The history of the summer movie season is quite illustrated. It used to be a time when Hollywood dumped their most unworthy and unwanted films. It wasn’t until Steven Spielberg’s Jaws was released in theaters in the summer of 1975 when that concept changed.

The film revolutionized the industry by becoming a box-office phenomenon and the first film to gross more than a $100 million. Two years later, George Lucas followed suit with the release of Star Wars, solidifying summer releases as one of the most moneymaking seasons for film releases.

Year after year, Hollywood started churning out big budget, senseless, high-concept films that audiences would embrace just by the visuals. Eight of the top ten grossing films of all time have been summer releases with the only exceptions being Titanic and The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King, which essentially played against zero competition for two months.

However, in recent years, those numbers have slumped. In 2005, the film industry went through its worst box office drought in decades. Blame for the sudden drop in sales could go to blind green-lighting on every sequel, prequel or remake idea presented in Hollywood conference rooms. Now it’s time to feel the repercussions.

No less than 18 sequels or remakes are being released this summer. While I really am looking forward to many of these films, I question the integrity of the people who approve these products – isn’t there anything that is new, original and creative out there? There has never been a time where the only film I’m really looking forward to that isn’t a sequel or a remake is an animated film by Pixar. Judging by Pixar’s and director Brad Bird’s record (Bird also directed and wrote The Incredibles) Ratatouille, which comes out this June, will most likely be the best film of the summer.

TRIVIAL PURSUIT, page 10

Students studying late inside the Green Library on April 23 and 24 can take a break in the Graham Center at Cram Jam, an event hosted during finals week in the fall and spring semesters. The event is a collaborative effort between Student Government Association, Campus Life, GC, the Panther Card Office and the Porter Davis Game Room.

Throughout the two days, FIU students can get an array of items and services at no cost, including Coldstone ice cream, Rockstar energy drinks, blue books and massages. In addition, Fresh Food Company will be open from 11:45 p.m. to 1 a.m. providing free breakfast food to hungry crammers and the first floor of the library will remain open for 24 hours.

"With the cramming and the stress, it’s imperative that SGA does something to help students as the end of the semester nears," SGA Marketing Coordinator Jean Roseme said.

According to Roseme, one major difference from previous Cram Jams is the operating hours of the game room, which will be open from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. on both days.

"Last year, the game room wasn’t open during finals," Roseme said.

Because of the "first come, first served" event policy, it is recommended that students arrive early to GC in order to take advantage of the giveaways, according to Roseme.

Sophomore Gabriela Morales, who is majoring in education, views Cram Jam as a needed break during one of the most stressful weeks of a semester.

"It’s a good stress reliever and you don’t have to go very far from your study area," Morales said. Other students such as sophomore Alvaro Quiñones find the event useful but somewhat distracting.

"People should be studying during finals," Quiñones said. "You should leave the loud music for afterwards. Free food and coffee are good because people need it, but the music is a bad idea because it distracts people’s focus."

Anyone who wishes to partake in the free food and services must show a valid Panther Card. For students who misplaced their ID or require a duplicate, the Panther Card Office will be open from 11 p.m. - 1 a.m. during Cram Jam and will offer $5 for duplicate IDs, which normally cost $15.

TRIVIAL PURSUIT, page 10
PLA YING JA C K’S

ROCKIN’ OUT! Jack’s Mannequin vocalist/pianist Andrew McMahon (top) and guitarist Bobby Anderson (left) rocked out at the Pharmed Area on April 16 with punk band Whole Wheat Bread and Miami natives Sunday Driver. The show, hosted by the Student Programming Council, benefited the Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

— Compiled by Reuben Pereira

INFLUENTIAL DECISION MAKER.
RESPECTED MANAGER.
UM MBA.

Lydia McGregor  Continuous Improvement and Training Senior Manager — Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne

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, APRIL 20TH AT 11:30AM  SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ROOM #8B 530.
TWO YEAR PROGRAM BEGINS AUGUST 2007.
ONE YEAR PROGRAM BEGINS JANUARY 2008.
RSVP 806.331.7137 MBA@MIAMI.EDU
WWW.BUS.MIAMI.EDU/GRAD
Decreasing console prices help old technology linger

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Staff Writer

Every few years, the video game console war resumes with companies racing to release their latest gaming machines while trying to come out on top. Currently the sales battle being fought is between the Nintendo Wii and the PlayStation 3 and it appears the Wii is winning, at least thus far.

At first glance, the price difference between the two systems is what is giving the Wii the edge. Even when compared to the basic PS3, the Wii is $200 cheaper. Cost does play a factor into the overall popularity of the Wii, according to junior James Chung who works at a local GameStop store.

“It’s the hype right now,” Chung said. “A lot of kids want it and parents buy for the kids.”

According to Chung, his GameStop has sold more Wii systems than PS3s, but the high Wii sales were only partially due to the lower cost of the system.

“I have one myself,” Chung said. “But I got it because of the hype.”

At the end of Dec. 2006, the Wii had sold 1.1 million units while the PS3 sold 490,700, stated in an article found on MSNBC.com. Locally, electronic stores such as the Best Buy and Target on Kendall Drive have reported repeated sellouts of the Wii while the PS3 showed to be less successful throughout the holiday season.

One speculation behind low PS3 sales is the amount of games available for the system. Game developers are weary to invest in a gaming machine with low sales – if the system is doing poorly, their game will more than likely do poorly as well.

Senior Daniel Rodriguez, who bought both systems, claims the PS3 is the better gaming machine, however.

“The graphics are better on the PS3 and it implements the Blue Ray [disc format] well,” Rodriguez said. “[The PS3] doesn’t have as many games as the Wii, but the PS3 is a universal multimedia center.”

To some consumers, such as Rodriguez, the PS3 while being more expensive than the Wii, is still a better investment because of blue-ray technology – which not only boasts the ability to display media in high definition but holds up to five times the amount of memory of a DVD. Currently, a Sony blue ray player retails for about $800 on Amazon.com while the PS3 retails for $599.99.

Because price continues to be a factor especially in the youth market, some students find themselves holding on to their PlayStation 2, which outsold the Wii and PS3 in December, selling 1.4 million units according to the MSNBC article. Recently, its price was also dropped to $130.

For Yusiley Sierra and her sister, the PS2 will continue to be their choice system.

“We were thinking about getting the Wii,” Sierra said. “We will be playing with the [PS2] as long as they’re making games. [People] just have to find systems that fit their budget.”

More than 101 million PS2 units and over a billion pieces of software for the system have sold worldwide and in the United States, the PS2 continues to make up about 55 percent of all console sales according to Sony Computer Entertainment America.
Ska band discusses travails of touring, blood drinking

AUG 19, 2007

BY MELEIA BOONE

Staff Writer

Boston ska septet Big D and the Kids Table performed at Ft. Lauderdale’s Revolution nightclub on April 13 in support of their recently released album Strictly Rude, the band’s fourth full-length record. Released on March 20, Strictly Rude features the group’s trademark brass sounds while incorporating piano and organ into the mix. Lead vocalist Dave McWane, guitarist Sean Rogan and trumpet player Dan Stoppelman sat down with The Beacon to discuss the current tour, the new album and south Florida.

Q: How did you guys end up together?

Sean: Through an Internet dating service. We met at Berkley College of Music in 1996 and we were all friends and we’re all musicians, so what better thing to do than play music with your friends?

Q: Are you all from Boston?

Sean: We’re all from New England. Does anyone want to disagree with me and say a different story on how we met?

Dave: Did you say that we all love each other?

Sean: Oh yes, and we all love each other.

Dave: I’ll tell you one thing, I know we started the band not to start a band like Poison and Guns’N’Roses, like “we are.” Sometimes we’re all huddled in our basement in our practice space and I think that definitely affects the songwriting, but we wrote the latest album Strictly Rude during the summer so it definitely sounds different then our other records.

Q: Is there any special language you were looking for the new record and, if so, do you think you achieved it?

Dave: We definitely wanted the biggest influence on this record to be a ska influence and we were talking to Side One Dummy, the record label, and they really wanted us to make a ska record, and we had plans to make a full dub record, a punk record, which we got to actually release as a split. It’s an additional song on the album, I think it’s a split album.[extended play album] called Beijing to Boston and those are all pretty much punk songs. But we definitely wanted to focus on the groove being a ska groove and the different ska grooves you can have. I think we got what we were going for.

Q: What’s the worst you’ve ever had to eat while on tour?

Sean: The worst thing I’ve ever seen anyone eat was Steve. [Foe: bassist for the band] kid’s blood once in a pink glass. The kid cut his hand and all the blood spilled into a cup and Steve went right up to it and took two huge swigs of it and that was pretty gross.

Q: So you guys are doing Warped Tour this summer, how have your previous experiences on Warped Tour been and are you looking forward to it again?

Dan: You know, people complaining about how hard it is to be on Warped Tour and how much work it is, how hot it is, you don’t get to shower as much, all that stuff. But that is perfectly balanced by how incredibly fun it is on the tour, and then at the end of the day you really appreciate the moment where you get to have a beer and hang out with everybody and just get to have a good time because you worked your ass off, so it’s a perfect balance of working hard and playing hard.

Q: Do you guys have any pre-show rituals?

Sean: Actually we started the tour, we all have different handshakes for everyone in the band. Dan’s and I improvised every single night but it always starts off with an elbow. Dave and I have a double reversal explosion, and everybody has something different.

Dave: It’s probably why we always start our set too late because everyone has to do a stupid handshake with everybody.

Some feel manners add to social masks

MANNERS, page 8

false sense of superiority.

“It’s a way of isolating yourself from other classes,” Tardanico said. “If an ethnic group is reaching your level, it’s a way of excluding them nonetheless. Like other basic rules about who belongs and who doesn’t, there’s constant conflict and negotiation. Not only can good manners mean that with which to push others off the social ladder, but they can also compromise authenticity, replacing it with artificiality,”

Tardanico explained that social psychology recognizes this and attempts to address it.

“Social order is all about masking social turmoil,” Tardanico said. “That’s what Freud was about — our inner psyche that society’s rules squashed.”

He said society has also developed ways to release tension associated with such expectations by forming outlets for exhibition.

“That’s why we have rituals that allow you to vent,” Tardanico said. “Mardi Gras, the bar, sports events, and fraternity parties.”

Others, like Benezagam, are just grateful that manners developed and don’t wonder what hidden intentions may lurk.

“I take people the way they portray themselves,” Benzaquen said. “If they’re being polite, I believe they really are polite.”

Medical MD & Veterinary Degree Programs

Making World-Class Physicians & Veterinarians Today, For Tomorrow’s World

Programs to meet the needs of high school and college graduates.

• Programs recognized by the National Committee on Medical Education, Accreditation, and the U.S. Department of Education.

• Programs are approved by New York Medical Education Board for clinical training in the state of New York. (A state with a high number of residency positions.)

• Medical and veterinary clinical clerkships/training in the USA.

• Smaller class size with traditional European tutorial style education.

• MD PhD, MD MBA, MD MSHA, and MEd programs.

• Much safer campus environment, compared to many campuses in the USA, allowing learners and strengthening of cultural values.

• English language curriculum matches to major American medical and veterinary schools.

• Excellent opportunity for hands-on participation for extensive training and experience.

• Alumni holding very good positions all over the USA.

When it comes to medical & veterinary education, our programs set standards for excellence. With the unmatched opportunity at your doorstep.

For more information call 305-595-9500

Are you undecided?

Welcome to a new world of Possibility!

Acupuncture & Massage College

Acupuncture & Massage College

10506 N. Kendall Dr.

Miami, FL 33176

www.amcollege.edu

TRIVIAL PURSUIT, page 8

Of the 18 sequels or prequels coming out this summer, the big three are sure to be the ones released in May: Spider-Man 3, Shrek the Third and Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End. I predict at least a combined $700 million gross for these three films alone. Previous installments of these three films have all broken opening weekend records and have been the highest grossing films of their respective years. However, this summer, it’s possible that they all burn into each other’s fan bases and split the grosses, all disappointing in the long run.

June will bring us more sequels in the form of the unnecessary in Ocean’s 13 and Evan Almighty, the sequel to Bruce Almighty with Steve Carell reviving the role of Evan Baxter. The month will end in what looks like the best of the June sequels – the return of John McClane after more than a decade. Bruce Willis will return as his most famous character in the fourth installment of the Die Hard series entitled Live Free or Die Hard.

July is the month of adaptations, which kicks off with Transformers, produced by Steven Spielberg and opening on the coveted Independence Day weekend. The fifth Harry Potter movie also debuts coinciding with the release of the seventh and final Potter movie. The Simpsons will also make their big screen debut along with what looks like an absolute catastrophe, the musical adaptation of Hairspray – which was already a film before it got to be. The month will end with Matt Damon starring and Paul Greenberg directing The Bourne Ultimatum.

So, now that you know what to expect, I hope you spend your money wisely before running out for every flashy movie that ends with the number “2.” Looking on the brighter side of life, at least there will be plenty of time to get a tan.

Trilogies predicted as top earners at summer box office

For more information call 305-595-9500

Acupuncture & Massage College

10506 N. Kendall Dr.

Miami, FL 33176

www.amcollege.edu

Are you undecided?
Being in South Florida, FIU has a huge advantage because it’s one of the only places in the country where sports can be played year-round. States up North do not have the luxury of practicing outdoor sports in the middle of winter.
FIU athletic season saw drastic but vital changes

It’s almost over. Not just the Spring semester, but the athletic year as well.

To no one’s surprise, a lot of FIU’s sports teams struggled, most notably the football team.

It’s been a strange year for FIU sports, but there were a few pleasant surprises sprinkled in among the usual chaos and losing.

Former safety Nick Turnbull played in the Super Bowl for the Chicago Bears as a backup safety and special teams player, women’s basketball coach Cindy Russo won her 600th game, swimmer Sara Giovannoni broke the school record in the 200-yard breaststroke and placed 18th in the same event at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships and women’s soccer coach of 22 years – Everton Edwards – was fired, founding football coach Don Strock was fired, Mario Cristobal was hired in his place and there was that little brawl that took place at the Orange Bowl on Oct. 14.

Yes, this has been a whacky and crazy year for FIU sports, but it has also been a year in which a lot of changes have been made. At the helm at all of the changes being made is athletic director Pete Garcia, who was brought in to completely revamp and change the culture of FIU athletics. He has often referred to FIU as a sleeping giant.

Granted, it’s going to take a lot of work to get this giant to wake up, but it’s possible because of the resources available to the athletic program.

This summer will be the time for the athletics to get out of neutral and shift into drive. It will be the time to make critical moves paramount to the future successes. Among one of the major changes that needs to take...
Murray's talent attributed to competitive nature and playing against her brothers

Anwom, who is one of the top-ranked cornerbacks in the state, has already committed to Boise State University's football.
According to her mother, Donna, the family as a whole is very athletic and sports-oriented.

Donna said that sports gave the family an opportunity to spend a lot more time together as a family.
Murray credits the fact that playing sports with her brothers helped her develop her athletic ability. Perhaps helped her them as well.

SPORTS

FIU Sports Replay

Murray, who is one of the top-ranked cornerbacks in the state, has already committed to Boise State University’s football.
According to her mother, Donna, the family as a whole is very athletic and sports-oriented.

Donna said that sports gave the family an opportunity to spend a lot more time together as a family.
Murray credits the fact that playing sports with her brothers helped her develop her athletic ability. Perhaps helped her them as well.

SUN BELT LEADERS

BASEBALL

The Golden Panthers (18-20) split the series against Sun Belt Conference opponent Louisiana-Monroe (21-16) April 13-14 at University Park Stadium after the rubber match of the series was cancelled due to a Hurricane watch.
Three Golden Panthers hit home runs in game one of the series against Warhawks pitcher Bucky Chandler. Entering the game, Chandler was the Sun Belt Conference ERA leader. The FIU offensive onslaught featured the three, four and five spots combining to hit 8-for-12. Senior third baseman Bryan Pullin went 3-for-4 with a home run and three RBI.
Golden Panthers starting pitcher Chris Allen allowed four earned runs in three innings of work to close out the 9-5 victory.
The second game of the series was a familiar scene as the Golden Panthers lost their second ninth inning lead of the week. The Warhaws outlasted the Golden Panthers in 5-3 extra innings victory. Golden Panthers pitcher Jorge Ramos made his second appearance out of the bullpen and once again had trouble recording outs. Reliever Evan Ellison was charged with the loss, but Ramos allowed Ellison’s base runner to score the go-ahead run in the top of the tenth. Starting pitcher Cory Poliziano’s nine strikeout performance was for naught because Warhaws starting pitcher Keith Christensen was equally impressive, giving up one run through six innings.

SUN BELT STANDING

Two innings of work to close out the 9-5 victory.
The second game of the series was a familiar scene as the Golden Panthers lost their second ninth inning lead of the week. The Warhaws outlasted the Golden Panthers in 5-3 extra innings victory. Golden Panthers pitcher Jorge Ramos made his second appearance out of the bullpen and once again had trouble recording outs. Reliever Evan Ellison was charged with the loss, but Ramos allowed Ellison’s base runner to score the go-ahead run in the top of the tenth. Starting pitcher Cory Poliziano’s nine strikeout performance was for naught because Warhaws starting pitcher Keith Christensen was equally impressive, giving up one run through six innings.

SUN BELT LEADERS

BATTING

McQueen TROY

56 .403 160 45 54 31 18 2 2 12

Waldenky FAU

56 .412 135 39 63 50 18 9 16

Cook FAU

53 .405 149 56 60 27 10 2 3 12

Yasso ASU

23 .388 92 22 36 12 11 0 4 17

McKenna FAU

36 .384 138 30 53 37 10 1 11 27

Yates ASU

23 .388 98 22 38 29 11 0 10 9

Cook FAU

58 .378 196 40 59 33 9 0 6 12

Bomback FAU

38 .378 164 47 62 39 8 1 11 17

Pullin FIU

38 .378 156 40 59 33 9 0 6 12

Bomback FAU

36 .354 149 58 55 15 12 0 11 14

Windlansky FAU

29 .368 95 22 35 12 8 0 3 16

McOwen FIU

45

Bomback FAU

47

Cook FAU

60

Robinson TROY

29

Min 2.0 AB

*All records up to date as of Apr. 17

14-20 10-8 .556 L3

16-23 8-10 .381 L3

18-20 5-9 .357 L1

16-23 8-10 .357 L1

10-9 .369 149 38 55 45 12 0 11 14

10-9 .369 149 38 55 45 12 0 11 14

16-23 8-10 .357 L1

FIU Sports Replay

Murray, who is one of the top-ranked cornerbacks in the state, has already committed to Boise State University’s football.
According to her mother, Donna, the family as a whole is very athletic and sports-oriented.

Donna said that sports gave the family an opportunity to spend a lot more time together as a family.
Murray credits the fact that playing sports with her brothers helped her develop her athletic ability. Perhaps helped her them as well.

SUN BELT LEADERS

BATTING

McQueen TROY

56 .403 160 45 54 31 18 2 2 12

Waldenky FAU

56 .412 135 39 63 50 18 9 16

Cook FAU

53 .405 149 56 60 27 10 2 3 12

Yasso ASU

23 .388 92 22 36 12 11 0 4 17

McKenna FAU

36 .384 138 30 53 37 10 1 11 27

Yates ASU

23 .388 98 22 38 29 11 0 10 9

Cook FAU

58 .378 196 40 59 33 9 0 6 12

Bomback FAU

38 .378 164 47 62 39 8 1 11 17

Pullin FIU

38 .378 156 40 59 33 9 0 6 12

Bomback FAU

36 .354 149 58 55 15 12 0 11 14

Windlansky FAU

29 .368 95 22 35 12 8 0 3 16

McOwen FIU

45

Bomback FAU

47

Cook FAU

60

Robinson TROY

29

Min 2.0 AB

*All records up to date as of Apr. 17

14-20 10-8 .556 L3

16-23 8-10 .381 L3

18-20 5-9 .357 L1

16-23 8-10 .357 L1

10-9 .369 149 38 55 45 12 0 11 14

10-9 .369 149 38 55 45 12 0 11 14

16-23 8-10 .357 L1

FIU Sports Replay

Murray, who is one of the top-ranked cornerbacks in the state, has already committed to Boise State University’s football.
According to her mother, Donna, the family as a whole is very athletic and sports-oriented.

Donna said that sports gave the family an opportunity to spend a lot more time together as a family.
Murray credits the fact that playing sports with her brothers helped her develop her athletic ability. Perhaps helped her them as well.

SUN BELT LEADERS

BATTING

McQueen TROY

56 .403 160 45 54 31 18 2 2 12

Waldenky FAU

56 .412 135 39 63 50 18 9 16

Cook FAU

53 .405 149 56 60 27 10 2 3 12

Yasso ASU

23 .388 92 22 36 12 11 0 4 17

McKenna FAU

36 .384 138 30 53 37 10 1 11 27

Yates ASU

23 .388 98 22 38 29 11 0 10 9

Cook FAU

58 .378 196 40 59 33 9 0 6 12

Bomback FAU

38 .378 164 47 62 39 8 1 11 17

Pullin FIU

38 .378 156 40 59 33 9 0 6 12

Bomback FAU

36 .354 149 58 55 15 12 0 11 14

Windlansky FAU

29 .368 95 22 35 12 8 0 3 16

McOwen FIU

45

Bomback FAU

47

Cook FAU

60

Robinson TROY

29

Min 2.0 AB

*All records up to date as of Apr. 17

14-20 10-8 .556 L3

16-23 8-10 .381 L3

18-20 5-9 .357 L1

16-23 8-10 .357 L1

10-9 .369 149 38 55 45 12 0 11 14
**THIS WEEKEND IN FIU SPORTS**

**APRIL 20**
- 7:00 p.m. Women’s basketball vs. Troy
- 5:00 p.m. Men’s tennis vs. North Alabama
- 4:00 p.m. Women’s tennis vs. North Alabama

**APRIL 21**
- 1:00 p.m. Men’s tennis vs. University of Alabama-Birmingham
- 3:00 p.m. Women’s tennis vs. University of Alabama-Birmingham

**APRIL 22**
- 1:00 p.m. Men’s tennis vs. Tulane
- 3:00 p.m. Women’s tennis vs. Tulane

**THIS WEEKEND IN FIU SPORTS**

**ELITE CLOSERS SHOULDN’T BECOME STARTERS**

VILLAMARZO, page 16

na’s teammate Rivera and Billy Wagner of the New York Mets, who both made $10.5 million. With simple math alone, and not factoring in any other stats, the Yankees paid Mussina a little over $98,000 per inning he pitched. Rivera, on the other hand, was paid $140,000 per inning.

And the Yankees will gladly do it, because the innings Rivera pitches as a whole are more important than those Mussina does. Well, and because they have the kind of money to do that, because they’re the Yankees. In other words, from a pure money standpoint, closers are worth more money than starters. You could point out the situation with John Smoltz a couple of years back, but he was a dominant starter to begin with and only converted to closer as rehab after a few years of injuries. He was going to thrive in any pitching situation you put him in once he was 100 percent healthy. Heck, the Atlanta Braves were very reluctant to move him from the bullpen anyway. All in all, if a pitcher can dominate and is comfortable coming out to pitch in high pressure situations in high pressure cities – such as Boston or New York – just go with it.

Putting you in conversation with our extraordinary faculty

At Barry Law we strive to educate lawyers who approach the practice of law in a professionally responsible and compassionate manner. Our diverse and distinguished faculty open their minds as well as their doors to you, challenging you to make a difference. And, with opportunities for real-world legal practice and hands-on experience, you gain an experiential edge as you continually hone your legal skills.

Whether you choose our part-time evening or full-time day program, all Barry Law students are taught by the same faculty and are exposed to the same opportunities.

It’s not too late to begin the part-time program starting this fall! Sign up now for the June 2007 LSAT and take the first step to enrolling this fall at Barry Law.

**TEAM EFFORT**

SUCCESS: Egle Petrauskaite (left) and Priscilla Castillo (right) celebrate after winning a point. The women’s tennis team continues their winning streak at ten games.
Closers’ value measured by pressure situations, not dominance

Claus Phanor
Contributing Writer

The chants of “Go D-Money, go D-Money, go D-Money!” can be heard from the Golden Panther dugout as her teammates encourage her when she is up to bat. At every at-bat can either be a bunt single, a sacrifice bunt or a crushing hit into the outfield.

Deomni Murray, the senior centerfielder for the women’s softball team is having the most productive season in her four years at FIU.

“I have no clue how or where it started. All I can remember is that last season some of my teammates started calling me D-Money and so that’s how it all began,” Murray said.

Many of her teammates believe she is the fastest and quite possibly the most stylish player on the team.

It comes to no surprise that coach Kim Gwydir calls upon Murray to bunt or place the ball down in play during games to get the offense going.

For the past two seasons, she has cemented herself as the team’s lead-off hitter and has been successful in that spot.

She is tied for first this season in hitting streaks (nine games), a record she originally set last year with eight straight games, and is also first on the team with an ongoing hitting streak of four games as of April 16.

A 2006 All-Sunbelt Conference Team selection, Murray ranks first on the team in hits (44) and total plate appearances (161).

She is second behind junior shortstop Monique White in on-base percentage (.363) and is tied with White and senior catcher Tabitha Embry for runs scored (22).

“I am a running hitter and my objective is to put the ball on the ground and run as fast as I can and hopefully make the defense make a mistake,” Murray said.

Making mistakes is what the opposing team is doing when Murray is on base.

This season she has 23 stolen bases in only 26 attempts, placing her first on the team and third in the Sun Belt Conference.

She said she is poised to make her final year at FIU her best thus far.

According to Murray, despite putting up major numbers on offense, her defense is where she feels she establishes herself.

“She is tied for first this season in hitting streaks (nine games), a record she originally set last year with eight straight games, and is also first on the team with an ongoing hitting streak of four games as of April 16.

A 2006 All-Sunbelt Conference Team selection, Murray ranks first on the team in hits (44) and total plate appearances (161).

She is second behind junior shortstop Monique White in on-base percentage (.363) and is tied with White and senior catcher Tabitha Embry for runs scored (22).

“I am a running hitter and my objective is to put the ball on the ground and run as fast as I can and hopefully make the defense make a mistake,” Murray said.

Making mistakes is what the opposing team is doing when Murray is on base.

This season she has 23 stolen bases in only 26 attempts, placing her first on the team and third in the Sun Belt Conference.

She said she is poised to make her final year at FIU her best thus far.

According to Murray, despite putting up major numbers on offense, her defense is where she feels she establishes herself.

“On the field, my strength is defense. I feel like I am a really good defensive player. Not to be cocky or anything, but I think I am a better defensive player than an offensive player,” Murray said.

“If I am doing bad at the plate, I’ll always expect to get the job done in the outfield. So every ball that is hit I expect to get it.”

Best known for her strong arm and her numerous diving catches, Murray is ranked fourth on the team in fielding percentage (.985).

Murray’s shouts of “I got it” can be heard on almost a regular basis each game.

This competitiveness displayed on the field is nothing new to the athletic Murray family.

Murray grew up with three brothers, it’s a hell of a lot of breathing room in a baseball game.

The relievers before him have left him with a mess to clean – runners on the corners with two outs and the opposing team’s best two batters due up.

It’s not even the ninth inning, but it’s moments like these why closers are so valued.

It is fitting that Boston Red Sox closer Jonathan Papelbon recorded a five-out save in the aforementioned situation on Easter Sunday against the Texas Rangers, because a month ago it wouldn’t have been him in that situation.

Last year, the 26-year-old Papelbon took baseball by storm recording 35 saves and 0.92 ERA in his rookie season in arguably the most pressure-packed baseball town in the country.

Because of that dominance he showed as a closer, Boston management wanted to have him pitch more innings as a starter.

Now, I bet they’re glad they didn’t make that change, because Papelbon was probably the only pitcher in their bullpen who could’ve gotten them out of that jam in Texas.

Now, take a look at the Florida Marlins. Their closer has blown two saves – one which gave the Washington Nationals one of their two wins this season. And that’s not the worst part, just half of the story. He has a 14.73 ERA, has a WHIP of 4.36 (i.e. he allows over four hits and walks combined every inning he pitches) and opposing hitters are batting .526 off him.

With all that said, if you have a pitcher who can dominate in the ninth inning, do not try to make him a starter. Just don’t. Trust me. Ask any team who doesn’t have a dominant closer.

So hypothetically, if every save opportunity you get is with a three-run lead and you allow two runs every time you go out, you’ll have a lot of saves but an 18.00 ERA. Now that’s too dominant, is it?

A dominant closer is such a valuable commodity that teams are technically overpaying these guys.

Take, for example, the highest paid starting pitcher in Major League Baseball last season, Mike Mussina of the New York Yankees, who made a whopping $19 million.

The highest paid closers were Mussina and Trevor Hoffman.