Director discusses inter-campus shuttle service

Bill Foster, FIU's director of the Department of Parking and Transportation, met with The Beacon to talk about plans for a night pick-up service and about the shuttle service between the two campuses.

Q: Can you tell us about the plans -with the Student Government Association- to develop a shuttle service which would take students from different parking garages to class buildings?

Foster: It’s called the “public service aide program” and it will start this fall. What we are doing is working with SGA to do something at night as a safety measure or initiative.

People will be able to call a number and, within a 10 minute window, have a cart to picking them up and taking them where they are going. It will run from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. and it will especially target the dorm students. We’ll also do jump starts.

It will be a free service and we are developing flyers to advertise the system. The number to call will be 305-348-1673.

Q: Are you going to increase the shuttle service between the two campuses with classes starting every hour when the three-day schedule starts?

Foster: Not at this point. The shuttle runs on a tight schedule already. Tightening that schedule up will not be something that we will correlate to the class time.

Q: But what if, say, someone has class at 3 p.m. at the Biscayne Bay Campus. He or she would have to take the 12:50 p.m. bus, get to BBC at 1:50 p.m. and then wait around for over an hour?

Foster: Shrinking the schedule or changing the hours will present more of a problem.

If I shrink it and try to have a two o’clock bus, I would face the challenge of what would happen if the bus is late. The other way to look at it is if there is a delay, students won’t be late to class.

We might be able to adjust the actual departure times but this might create another problem: If I correct it in the morning, then I will have the problem in the evening when classes last longer.

This will affect the rest of the day.

If they want to take the bus, they will have to accept this. Just like with

THREE OF A KIND

Florida valedictorians, student elite choose FIU

The three Young sisters were waiting for their English class to start when one of their friends asked whether the rumor was true: were they really the top three of their class?

This was a surprise to twins Jaqueline and Justine Young, 17, and their younger sister Jasmine, 14, who graduated first, second and third in their class of 657 students: Jaqueline as valedictorian, Justine and Jasmine as co-salutatorians.

“We were a bit skeptical, but we decided to check in on it anyway,” Jasmine said.

“I was surprised when they told me, I never knew we’d get so much attention” Justine said, Jaqueline agreeing.

The Young sisters, who were born in New Jersey but moved to Orlando in 1997, made FIU the university of their choice. They are part of a trend at FIU: 18 valedictorians will be joining the Golden Panther community this school year. Sixteen of them will come from South Florida high schools.

The girls, who graduated from Freedom High School, say they never planned to graduate at the head of their class.

“You always see things like ‘so-and-so graduated with high honors’ in the newspaper, but you never think you’ll be one of those people,” Jasmine said. Although she did not intend to graduate early, Jasmine found herself graduating with her sisters. “I found some classes easy for me so I asked to take higher level courses.”

Eventually, the 14-year old was told to skip ahead in grade levels and earned enough credits in her Advanced Placement courses to graduate with her sisters.

According to George Young, their father, the girls were accepted to all of Florida’s public universities. In the end they chose FIU because of their mutual attraction to the school.

“The top priority was whether or not administration would look out for you,” Jasmine said. “FIU gave us the attention other schools didn’t.”

FIU awarded Jaqueline the Valedictorian Scholarship, granting her $3,500 a year for

SISTERS, page 2

Board of Trustees now complete

With the addition of an FIU alumnus and a Florida government consultant, FIU’s Board of Trustees is now complete.

The Florida Board of Governors recently appointed Jorge L. Arrizurietia and Albert Maury to the BOT.

Maury has a deep connection with FIU; he earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1996 from the University and a second bachelor’s in accounting in 2002. He is also a GOP contributor who oversees the more than 25,000 patient private health care company.

“I am honored by this government appointment which will enable me to contribute to the continued success of this institution,” Maury said. “I hope to help the university better meet the needs of its students by creating memorable and personally relevant courses in all areas of study.”

Maury previously served as chief financial officer of Leon Medical Centers and was a member for the Alliance for Aging, gaining broad expertise in health care and finance.

While he didn’t obtain his degree from FIU, Arrizurietia is still very familiar with the Florida’s public education system: he served on the BOG as an appointee to former Governor Jeb Bush, where he worked to supervise the state’s 11 universities and colleges.

“I am honored and humbled by my

TRUSTEES, page 2
Foster: shuttle schedule to remain the same

Q: But when the university approved the new three-day schedule, was there an initiative to also change the bus schedule?
Foster: No, the transportation department works independently.

We have over 30,000 students at the University and the bus services only about 1,000 of them. Students pay $52 each way, but it costs about $5 and we pay the rest. It is a very expensive service but we want to provide it because we want to provide the link [between the two campuses], but this is something that was considered when a change was made that would affect 30,000 students. It is established in a way and you don’t want to change the expectations, you have to provide something that meets what people expect.

As a student, don’t you think that having a bus and a Mве here, is there a different one for Tuesdays and Thursdays would confuse students?

Q: But the University is already having different schedules for those days. Shouldn’t the bus schedule follow the new schedule?
Foster: We decided not to change the schedule believing that it would confuse students. If I were a college student, I would like to know the bus leaves at the same time every day. I wouldn’t have to wait to pull out the schedule and have to see what time the bus was leaving that particular day.

Maybe your paper can do a poll and ask students what they think about it.
We would like to get some feedback and maybe ask students, especially those at BBC because they are the ones using the bus service most of the time.
We are curious as to what students think. Again, it’s not something we can’t change, but something we decided not to change because we thought it would affect students instead of helping them.

Q: Can you tell us more about the plans of a new parking garage?
Foster: Yes, the new garage will have about 1,400 space. As I previously said, it will be located on Eight Street next to the Red Parking Garage. It will be different because it will have a retail component and also house the offices of public safety. We envision it to be an area of high demand. Completion is estimated in about two, to two and a half years.

Q: Do you have an emergency evacuation plan if, lets say, there is a bomb threat and all students rush to their cars and try to leave the University?
Foster: Yes we do. It’s the Student Emergency Management Team. We can turn the roads around. Our problem would be if we have media, law enforcement and other groups of people that would try to come in. We have some here that are also looking at hiring an outside company to stress test pressure points, and employees would go with barricades and equipment.

Board of Trustees receives new, prominent appointees

The FIU Board of Trustees has 13 members, five of which are appointed by the Board of Governors, six appointed by the governor, a university faculty chair, and a student.”

Their responsibilities include managing operations, generating cost-effective policies, and maintaining high quality education programs, as well as the establishing and abolishing of degrees and programs and course offerings.

The board can perform without recommendations from the president and provide direction to the Board of Governors. Arrizurieta and Maury also struck the diversity found on campus.

“The board decided to come to FIU to experience Miami,” Jaqueline said. “We heard it’s exciting and different from Orlando.

“THERE is every ethnicity everywhere you look and that was pretty cool because you don’t get that at some colleges,” Jasmine said.

To their father, their honorees weren’t expected.

“We constantly encouraged them to excel, helping them with independent thinking and research activities as well as tutoring and explaining what we could to our best of our knowledge,” George Young said in a telephone interview. Brother, JoAnn, dedicated herself as a stay-at-home mom to raise the girls.

The girls’ former English professor, Ed Chambers, is also proud of them.

“It is amazing the dedication the girls give to their education. They are extremely diligent,” Chambers said in an e-mail interview.

The girls spend anywhere from three to five hours studying daily and supported each other by studying together.

“We probably would have achieved what we have independently, but working together made it easier,” Jasmine said.

When asked if they were competitive amongst each other, Jasmine said, “Yeah, but it’s a friendly competition.”

Both Jaqueline and Jasmine are pursuing a three-by-four accelerated degree with the Honors College’s Medical Education program at FIU. They’ll spend three years at FIU before completing the fourth at University of South Florida as first year medical students.

The two will complete the remaining four years of the degree’s graduate program at USF.

Jaqueline is undecided and feels no pressure to choose a major. Although she is leaning towards Medicine, she is also interested in Biology.

Currently, both Jaqueline and Jasmine are taking courses for Summer B, and they live in an apartment across from University Park.

“The professors are very interactive with the students,” Jasmine said. “You have times where you’re serious about your school-work but you have times when you can talk to your professors as if you were your peers.”

Jasmine agreed. “I can tell I’m gonna have a good time here.”

Top of the class siblings on growing up, college

SISTERS, page 1
three renewable years, FIU also awarded both Justine and Jasmine the Presidential Scholarship, granting them $2,500 a year also renewable for three years; totaling $2,000 more than the Salutatorian Scholarship they were initially offered.

The girls were also struck by the diversity found on campus.

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Police Notes

Trespassing
A man was issued a trespassing warning after his ex-girlfriend, a FIU student, called campus police because he barricaded her in the Blue Garage. He wouldn’t let her leave the garage and threatened to let the air out of her tires if she wouldn’t speak to him. Police confronted the man, who agreed to leave.

Suspicious Activity
A student alleged campus police that a man in a computer room of the library was acting suspiciously. The man, who was not an FIU student, was looking at pornographic websites and attempted to run. Officer approached the man, and observed him looking at nude females. The officer asked him close the window of the site and arrested him outside. A records check of the suspect revealed a bench warrant for petty theft and the man was taken to the Miami-Dade County Main Jail to await prosecution.

Compiled by Jamel Salle, Beacon Staff
New points system keeps clubs active

NICOLE ACOSTA AND EVER CRUZ
Beacon Staff

Clubs based at the Biscayne Bay Campus need “more realistic goals” to follow, according to Joe L. Mintz, Student Organizations Council president. To meet those needs, SOC-BBC unveiled a revised list of club participation requirements at a meeting on July 17.

For Mintz, this revised participation system, effective immediately, provides a fair middle ground between BBC clubs and SOC-BBC itself.

“This point system gives clubs certain requirements that keeps them active and accountable without being too much of a burden clubs, so they concentrate on their own activities,” Mintz said.

The new full requirements for SOC-BBC club participation allows new and existing clubs to earn a maximum of 10 mandatory points if they meet certain requirements. Some of these requirements are to have a table during a minimum of two SOC BBC fairs each semester or to have at least one representative from a club schedule and attend one on one meeting with the SOC-BBC president or vice president.

“Treat your campaigns as employees in an agency. All campaign students in my class have to fill out a job application, submit their resumes, and provide their unofficial transcripts,” said Rosanna Fiske, professor in the Department of Advertising and Public Relations, who was the group’s advisor.

The students completed an entire advertising and marketing campaign to support the United Nations’ Millennium Program, an effort to eradicate poverty worldwide. According to a press release by the University, teams were asked to conduct situation analyses, prepare competitive strategies and supporting creative materials.

“Students have gained a great deal of confidence about their work in addition to putting together first-class pieces for their portfolios,” Fiske said. “Some clubs have shown to do all of the work themselves. The results are 100 percent their ideas, their research, their creativity, their execution.”

The regional winners and runners-up received InterAd XI certificates and plaque announcing their achievements.

This is FIU’s second win in the competition. In 2005, a team of students, working with the name “Sneakers and Suits” won first place in the United States/Canada division of the May 2005 competition. In 2004, a team of students, working with the name “Sneakers and Suits” won first place in the United States/Canada division of the May 2005 competition. In 2004, a team of students, working with the name “Sneakers and Suits” won first place in the United States/Canada division of the May 2005 competition.
Director discusses insurance proposal

As the appointed co-chair of the Florida Board of Governors State University System Student Health Insurance Task Force with my colleague Lesley Sacher, director of the Student Health Center at Florida State University, I would like to make a few clarifications to help students and the university community better understand the rationale behind the recommendations of the Task Force.

First, the Task Force members are appointed by the Board of Governors as recommended by senior leadership at their respective universities.

All 1 universities are represented; however, there is no representation by the health insurance industry.

One of the five recommendations that were made to the BOG by the Task Force during their meeting June 13 at FIU, involves the implementation of a mandatory student health insurance program at all state universities using a hard-waiver option, which would apply to all new undergraduate and graduate degree-seeking students beginning Fall 2010.

A hard-waiver system was recommended to allow students who already have sufficient health insurance coverage to be able to register for classes by showing proof of adequate insurance coverage with a policy that meets standardized criteria.

Task Force members are very sensitive to the needs of the students who are economically disadvantaged and have made as their recommendation that financial aid be increased to cover the cost of insurance for low-income students, based on need.

Please note that the Task Force considered several options for how students who are economically disadvantaged and have financial aid do not cover voluntary insurance plans; however, financial aid will provide funds to pay for insurance if it becomes a requirement.

It is estimated that approximately 30 percent of university students in Florida are uninsured or underinsured, potentially placing achievement of their academic goals in jeopardy if an unexpected accident or serious illness threatens their financial security.

Studies have shown that students without health insurance are less apt to receive prompt medical care if symptoms are more likely to be treated more readily. As a consequence, they miss classes and/or perform poorly.

Also, students without health insurance are under greater stress when confronted with an illness, due to uncertainties about how to pay for their needed medical care.

Stress can negatively impact one’s performance and has been associated with increased fatigue as well as a risk factor for infections, accidents, behavioral problems and heart disease.

Since 1989, public and private universities in many states have been requiring that all of their full-time students have insurance as a condition of enrollment.

In 2000, the University of California instituted mandatory insurance when it was estimated that 40 percent of its undergraduate students were uninsured or underinsured and that 25 percent of all student withdrawals were due to medical reasons.

Over the past seven years, more than 10 other public and private colleges and universities have required students to have health insurance.

In March, 2007, the American College Health Association completed an online student health insurance/benefits survey to assess trends throughout the country.

A total of 279 private and public colleges and universities throughout the United States participated.

Some of the key findings included: more than 90 percent of private universities require health insurance, 48 percent of public universities offer voluntary health insurance plans and 21 percent require health insurance, with one-third of these institutions adding this requirement since 2000.

Mandatory insurance eliminates risk selection, thus reducing the premium for all students while providing greater benefits.

There have been numerous factors, however, that have threatened to tarnish this convention.

In July 2006, the price of a roundtrip ticket peaked at $4 was the first of such inauspicious events.

With the Fall semester approaching, students face a new hindrance to their ability to commute between campuses: the current shuttle schedule doesn’t remain the same, despite the implementation of 30-minute course times and a M-W-F schedule.

For example, suppose a student has a 12 p.m. course at BBC this fall, he or she may consider taking the 11:20 a.m. shuttle. However, assuming ideal traffic conditions, they are not likely to get there at least until 12:15 p.m., which makes no sense.

Thanks to the flawed schedule, they are left no choice but to take the 9:50 a.m. shuttle, which leaves them at BBC far in advance of when they need to be there.

In the case of a student taking a 9 a.m. course at University Park, and a 12 a.m. course at BBC, the shuttle schedule is completely at odds with his or her schedule.

The 9 a.m. course ends at the same time the shuttle arrives, 9:50 p.m. which means that he or she will miss the shuttle and be forced to wait for the 11:20 p.m. shuttle to come. He or she in all likelihood would then be late for their class.

The inconvenience to students who have the courses for their major primarily located at BBC is significant, for they squander time and money.

Bill Foster, director of Parking and Transportation said, “We feel that Parking and Transportation should indeed make exhaustive strides in gauging student opinion with regard to this matter.

Yes, it is understood that such a change would initially cause confusion for some students, however, there will be a great deal of regard including – as well as anxious moments – as a result of the three-day schedule.

By making adjustments to this schedule students stand more of a chance of getting to their classes on time.

Furthermore, confusion can be minimized by adjusting to the shuttle schedule prior to the start of the Fall semester, which would enable Parking and Transportation to give sufficient notification to the student body.

Intercampus transit should be convenient for all students, rather than a costly, burden-some chore.

The benefits of the two campuses are really as inter-twined as University President Modesto A. Maidique insists, then Parking and Transportation should take potential scheduling conflicts into consideration to insure that the commute between campuses is as easy and hassle-free as possible.

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Caffeinated Craze

Accepted drug consumed by students, professors alike

KASSANDRA POOL
Contributing Writer

Red Bull, Coca-Cola, Rock Star, coffee and tea. All of these products have one thing in common: caffeine, one of the world’s most widely used drugs.

Many students are guilty of using caffeine at some point in their lives to stay awake such as Student Programming Council President Sophia Del Zoppo, who wasn’t a regular tea consumer until two months ago.

“It helps me wake up when I am very tired. The only downside is that caffeine always makes me crash towards the end,” Del Zoppo said. “It makes me really anxious and I sometimes start shaking, so I try not to drink too much of it at once because I tend to get side effects.”

GlobalHealthAndFitness.com states that more than 90 percent of Americans consume caffeine daily.

According to John Hopkins University’s Department of Neuroscience, the average person drinks about 250 milligrams of caffeine per day, which is equivalent to about 1 to 2 cups of coffee or 3 to 5 bottles of soft drinks.

Tea alone contains anywhere between 30-60 mg of caffeine depending on how long it’s been brewed. Within 5 to 30 minutes of consumption, caffeine takes effect in one’s blood stream, depending on how much food is in the stomach and the concentration of caffeine in the product.

The drug keeps its users alert and awake, increasing the heart rate and respiration of the consumer.

Caffeine produces such an effect because it blocks adenosine, a chemical created in the brain that induces sleep, from binding to receptors.

If taken in excessive amounts, however, the stimulant may produce some adverse side effects: headaches, insomnia, feelings of restlessness and even anxiety.

A person who is accustomed to drinking caffeine but suddenly decides to stop one day may experience withdrawal symptoms, which leads researchers to speculate whether or not this stimulant is addicting.

“I don’t know the literature off hand, whether it’s addicting or not, but there are two aspects of the addiction—physiological and psychological addiction,” said Dr. Bradley C. Bennett, director of The Center for Ethnobiology and Natural Products at FIU.

Depending on a person’s definition of “addiction,” one might agree that caffeine is addicting because of its potential withdrawal symptoms as well as the physiological effects it produces on the body, particularly the manipulation of the chemical dopamine, which affects pain and pleasure sensation.

The stimulant’s effect on dopamine levels is similar to that of drugs such as cocaine and heroin.

For those desiring to abruptly quit caffeine products, the risk of finding themselves experiencing nausea, fatigue, headaches and upset stomach is a possibility.

Therefore, it is better to gradually slow down the caffeine intake in order to avoid withdrawal symptoms:

Coffee: Gradually cut caffeine intake by reducing the number of cups consumed daily.

Tea: Gradually reduce after cutting coffee intake.

Soft drinks: Reduce the amount of caffeine consumed daily.

The therapeutic effects produced by caffeine will continue to dwindle as the body tries to compensate for the caffeine withdrawal effects.

Gradually reducing caffeine intake helps ease the symptoms associated with caffeine withdrawal. Therefore, it is better to gradually slow down the caffeine intake in order to avoid withdrawal symptoms.

Beat poet exemplifies “in love with life” philosophy

Take this passage from his landmark work, “On the Road:”

“I shambled after them as I’ve been doing all my life after people who interest me, because the only people for me are the mad ones, the ones who are mad to live, mad to talk, mad to be saved, desirous of everything at the same time, the ones who never yawn or say a commonplace thing, but burn, burn, burn like fabulous yellow roman candles exploding like spiders across the stars … and so on.”

Reading the book between classes, I would look at course notes piling across my desk, at the computer screen shimmering with Excel charts and PowerPoint presentations, and I would tell myself that this couldn’t be life — that this couldn’t be what I desired.

I had to be mad to live, mad to be saved from irksome responsibilities and this wasn’t the way to do it: I had to be a rebel.

Kerouac turned rebellion into a philosophy. “You’re a genius all the time,” he wrote in his famous guide to spontaneous prose. “Be in love with your life … Blow as deep as you want to blow.”

Kerouac envisioned a radical individualism freed from the constraints of responsibilities or consequences.

To him, the only way to be saved was to never submit.

I wanted to gobble life like Kerouac. Casting my notes and projects aside, I saved up a few hundred dollars and took a three week trip to Canada with my best friend, leaving all complaints and expectations behind.

I found out about Kerouac’s grave while talking to a bookstore owner in Vermont. We made a brief side-trip to pay respects to the man who had inspired our indiscipline as though we were pilgrims racing toward a holy shrine.

Though there is a monument in Kerouac’s hometown, there is no marker on the grave.

MEANING OF LIFE, page
Music

Piano Squall – Game & Anime Music Emotions

BEN F. BADGER JR., Asst. News Director

Whoever says classical music is dead obviously has not heard Game & Anime Music Emotions, the first album by Michael Gluck better known by his stage name Piano Squall.

Gluck, a classically trained concert pianist, has been performing for charity since 2003. His overall theme is to convert music from video games and Japanese animation (anime) into piano pieces.

GAME features 17 songs from various games and anime and one original work.

It’s amazing how well Gluck manages to translate popular songs from the anime and gaming communities to piano and the sounds he produces are euphoric to the ears.

The songs are varied as well—the disc is comprised of tunes that range from lively to melancholic.

You have songs like “Tank” that are perfect to get your blood boiling or the slower “Every Heart” to sit down and relax to.

Every song will conjure some sort of image in your head, even if you haven’t heard the original versions of the songs or seen where they come from.

Ironically, the longest track on the disc, “Final Fantasy Battle Medley,” is also the worst track. Gluck, who takes his stage name from the Final Fantasy video game series, put a lot into this song, which is actually a compilation of many different musical themes from numerous Final Fantasy games, but the mixing of so many different pieces into one performance was the track’s largest flaw.

While Gluck managed to string them together well enough, the songs just conflicted with each other too much to be really enjoyable.

Despite the track’s shortcomings, the rest of the CD is perfect.

In several of the tracks, Gluck mixed in his own style and composition to complement the original versions.

Speaking of original, the last track on GAME, “Boss Battle” is a completely original composition that Gluck composed with Michael Huang, a composer and sound designer based in California.

It may not be that long, but it’s a real treat. And if you order the CD online, you will also receive another original composition called “Medieval.”

Up until this year, Gluck never sold his music, but rather gave it away on his web site PianoSquall.com.

When he performed at various conventions, he would sell posters or take donations to raise funds for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society among other charities.

The NMSS has a special place in Gluck’s heart as his grandmother tragically died of the disease.

Gluck will be donating 20 percent of all profits from GAME to sales to charity.

Gluck’s version is available through Gluck’s web site.

If you don’t want to order it online, autographed copies will be on sale Aug. 11 and 12 at FIU during the Yasumicon anime convention, hosted by the Anything Goes Anime club.

Music

Prince – Planet Earth

CHRIS TOWERS
Staff Writer

Depending on who you ask, Prince is either the king of funk, a guitar god, an R&B crooner or a wholly pretentious, indecipherable symbol. Because of these reinventions, Prince’s music has always been difficult to predict and impossible to recreate.

Unfortunately, following a decade-long battle with his record company in the ’90s, Prince seemed to finally be out of new ideas.

His music had settled into dull territory and Prince had fallen from grace.

However, in 2004 and 2006, Prince released Musicology and 3121 and saw a return to commercial success, if not a full return to his artistic glory days.

With combined sales of more than 4 million, these albums have seen Prince return to his status as a commercial force.

His latest album, Planet Earth, continues in the vein of those two previous albums as another focused, hook-heavy album of R&B grooves, which includes a welcomed return to Prince’s based “80s music at times.

While songs such as “Mr. Goodnight” and “Future Baby Mama,” which are more based on the successful R&B style from his past two efforts, are enjoyable, there are a few tracks that go beyond that formula and benefit from a live band sound and a renewed sense of energy.

In this mold, the first single, “Guitar,” stands out as the strongest track on the record. Featuring a catchy, danceable hook and some impressive guitar work, it is definitely the most up tempo track on the album. It wouldn’t sound out of place on his ‘80s albums alongside hits such as “Little Red Corvette” and “1999.”

Sandwiched between the title track, which is a socially conscious look at the problems facing our generation, and the slow jazz inspired “Somewhere Here On Earth,” “Guitar” provides a necessary boost of energy to an album that tends to lean towards grooves instead of hooks.

Aside from “All The Midnights Of The World,” which sounds like a poorly conceived Christmas carol, Planet Earth stands as another solid offering from an artist who has had a rather surprising recent resurgence.

While it’s doubtful that Prince will ever again reach the commercial heights of Purple Rain or 1999, he has proven himself a successful pop force at a time when even the biggest names sometimes struggle to move albums.

By reinventing himself yet again, Prince has managed to stay relevant in a career that has now spanned four different decades, and Planet Earth continues his recent string of strong works.

Stimulant found in coffee, soda

CAFFEINE, page 5

withdrawal symptoms, which mathematician professor Elizabeth Nicoli-Suco experiences when she doesn’t have her morning cup of java.

“I feel very good when I have my cup of coffee and I’m teaching,” Nicoli-Suco said, coffee in hand. “If I don’t drink the coffee, then I do get some withdrawal symptoms, such as headaches in the morning.”

Although coffee is a common choice for students and professors who need to stay awake, there are other alternatives for caffeine lovers.

One alternative for a morning pick-me-up is apples. They contain no caffeine but produce a similar effect on the human body.

Despite its potential drawbacks, some people continue to buy and consume caffeinated products.

Students such as freshman Geraldine Perez agree that caffeine allows you to function throughout the day after a long night of studying or grading papers.

“You need that kick to start your day especially after a really long night of doing essays and grading papers,” Perez said. “It does the body good.”

Kerouac grave an inspiration

I eventually returned to my studies and moved on to other writers and phases.

I learned to read Kerouac from time to time, and admire his talent more than any of the other Beat poets.

But more than anything, I learned from his writing.

I’ll remember what I learned while standing over his grave: those who try to swallow life might end up choking on it.

— The search for meaning continues this Fall.
Dogfighting scandal hurts Vick’s image once again

VICK, page 8

in aid of unlawful activities and to sponsor a dog in an animal fighting venture. The big question is, What happens now? The phrase is “innocent until proven guilty.” Vick and his lawyers have not yet been given the opportunity to make their case.

Vick is scheduled to appear in federal court to be arraigned on July 26, the first day of Falcons training camp.

The NFL has no such phrase, and one man serves as the judge, jury and executioner: Commissioner Roger Goodell. This summer Goodell passed judgment in the way of suspensions on Adam “Pacman” Jones and Terry “Tank” Johnson. Jones, a Tennessee Titans’ cornerback, received a season-long suspension for violating the new NFL Personal Conduct Policy. Jones has been arrested five times since he was drafted in 2005.

The criminal charges include assault, felony vandalism and most recently an incident related to “making it rain” at a Vegas strip club.

Tank Johnson received an eight-game suspension after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor weapons charge, resisting arrest and an aggravated assault. Johnson was released by the Chicago Bears this summer for his continuous legal issues.

With the National Football League turning the National Felony League this summer, Goodell has to make a decision using the precedent he set with the Jones and Johnsons. This is not a case where a maverick District Attorney is flinging around allegations as we saw in the Duke Lacrosse rape case.

Goodell must weigh this into his decision. The backlash from the indictment has already begun. AirTran and the Boys & Girls Club have pulled their sponsorships. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and the Humane Society plan to make calls to the remaining sponsors, including Rawlings and Powerade, to convince them to do the same.

Let’s face it. Allegedly murdering dogs makes you unmarketable, no matter who you are.

The judicial process can be a lengthy one, and Vick will likely not be hauled into court until after the upcoming NFL season. In the meantime, there is no good reason that Vick should be suitting up for the NFL or endorsing products any time soon.

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BATTER UP: Sophomore Tyler Townsend was selected to the Perfect Game’s Freshman All-American team. Townsend hit .338 and led the team in walks on his way to a .477 on-base percentage last season.
Volleyball duo rightfully plays for country in world championship

Darren Collette Contributing Writer

In the midst of one of the biggest events in the history of the sport, an FIU student man- and-woman team has gone to the pros and beat them at their own game. Senior Andrew Garcia managed to place 14th in the first No-Limit Texas Hold’em Shootout event at the 2008 World Series of Poker.

No-Limit Texas Hold’em is one of the fastest growing poker games in America and has become very popular with college students.

This summer at the World Series of Poker there were many major poker developments.

Phil Hellmuth won his 11th World Series of Poker championship bracelet breaking the all-time record held by Doyle Brunson and Johnny Chan. Many celebrities such as Shannon Elizabeth, Tobey Maguire; Jason Alexander, Sully Erna and, and the co-producer of the Simpsons, Sam Simon, made it to the cash levels in various tournaments.

Garcia bought into the Shootout for $1,500 and was one player among 900 entrants. He finished in 14th place and beat them at their own game because it renders them vulnerable to injury, is invalid.

In addition, playing volleyball against top tier opponents from different countries with different styles can be used as a form of conditioning for the upcoming season.

The tournament can serve as a tool to regain regular season form in a quicker fashion.

Due to the fact that Rosa and Valentine have scholarships courtesy of FIU, some people might believe that they have an obligation to put FIU first when deciding to compete in any competition not involving FIU.

The university invested time, money and resources on them to play for FIU, and if even just one of them returns unable to play the full season, FIU has lost some money in one way or another.

However, often people view athletes as purely investments, and they forget that some players have aspirations that reach beyond fame and fortune.

Most players have a genuine love for the sport they have decided to devote so much time and effort to.

In college sports and money has become so interconnected that athletes willing to play for the pride of their country rather than monetary compensation ought to be encouraged.

Rosa and Valentine will be playing in Thailand and hope that whether they win or lose, they will not regret experiencing playing against the elite players on a big stage wearing their country’s colors.

Contributor Michael McCann, a Professor of Law at Mississippi College, clarifies that an indictment by a federal grand jury is “far from a conviction.”

“Grand jury hearings are typically secret and one-sided in favor of the government,” said McCann. “The prosecutor decides which witnesses to call and which witnesses receive immunity.

The basic questioning is done by the prosecutor, and the defendant doesn’t even have a right to have his or her attorney present.”

The indictment court file reads like a horror story for animal rights activists and dog lovers everywhere.

The documents state that the pit bulls were to fight to the death. If still alive, the losing dogs were drowned, strangled, hanged, shot or electrocuted to death by a member of the Bad Newz Kennel.

The country first got word of Vick’s connection to pit bull fighting back in April when a police drug raid on a Virginia property owned by Vick uncovered a dog-fighting ring, a “rape” stand used to breed fighting dogs, controlled substances used as enhancers in dogfighting and nearly 70 malnourished pit bulls.

Under Virginia Law, the crime of animal abuse is a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in prison and a $2,500 fine.

However, the federal charge Vick now faces stems from traveling with the illegal fighting dogs to Virginia from other states.

More specifically, Vick faces up to six years in prison and $300,000 for conspiracy to travel in interstate commerce.

“Ookie” The word knowls Michael Vick as the elusive Pro-Bowl quarterback of the Atlanta Falcons. In Newport News, Va., where Vick grew up, he is affectionately known as “Ookie,” a name bestowed on him by his parents.

According to the federal grand jury indictment filed against Vick on July 17, he was also known as “Ookie” in the dark, shadowy and illegal world of dogfighting.

Vick was indicted on July 17 by a federal grand jury in connection with his alleged involvement in a dogfighting ring located at his property in Smithfield, Va.

In the pertinent part, the indictment alleges that Vick and his cohorts purchased four pit bulls from a cooperating witness, established a dogfighting business enterprise known as Bad Newz Kennels, and “tested” or “rolled” some of their fighting dogs against other dogs.

The terms “Rolling” or “testing” a fighting dog means placing a dog in a short fighting match to determine how well the animal fights.

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