Director discusses inter-campus shuttle service

MARIA CHERCOLES, CHRIS KHAWAND AND JOSE MAYA
Beacon Staff

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 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 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 the actual departure times, etc.

TRUSTEES, page 2

Three of a kind

THERE’S COMPANY: 17-year old twins Jaqueline and Justine (left) and their 14-year old sister Jasmine (right) tour the FIU Green Library. The trio will join other elite students and 18 valedictorians in choosing to attend FIU.

Florida valedictorians, student elite choose FIU

SUSANA RODRIGUEZ Contributing Writer

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.

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Q: There are currently three hours. Have you thought of maybe getting an extra bus?

Foster: I would not have a bus for a single hour because if it breaks down, you don't have it. The problem. Again, this is brand new so we are going to see how it works, if there are any changes we can make, we do it, but we have to make sure the changes help everyone, not just a small group of students.

Q: 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.

Q: But when the university approved the new three-day schedule, was there an initiative to also change the bus schedule?

Foster: The University has 30,000 students at the University and the bus serves only about 1,000 of them. Students are charged $2.50 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 not 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, you don't think that the bus will be there, and as a former CEO, I can't change the schedule because 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 want to have 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: You can tell us more about the plans of a new parking garage?

Foster: Yes, the new garage will have a 1,400 space and will be located on Eighth 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 try to come in. We are also looking at hiring an outside company to stress pressure points, and employees would go with barricades and equipment.

George Young said in a telephone interview that he is a student, JoAnn, dedicated herself as a stay-at-home mom to raise the girls.

A man was arrested for petty theft and the man was taken to the Miami-Dade County Main Jail to await prosecution.

A student alerted campus police that a man in the computer room of the library was struck by the diversity found everywhere you look and things. We constantly encourage the students to study together. The girls are interested in Medicine. They'll spend three years at FIU and then go on to the University of South Florida for medical school.

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Currently, both Jasmine and Justine are taking courses for Summer B, and each other has lived in an apartment across from University Park.

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

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

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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 while not being too much time-consuming and letting the clubs 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 if they meet certain requirements. Some of these requirements are to have a table during a minimum of two SOC club fairs each semester or to have at least one representative from a club schedule and attend a one-on-one meeting with the SOC-BBC president or vice president.

"These new requirements are a minimum of 21 points if they follow the additional credit requirements, such as attending monthly leadership luncheons held by the Center for Leadership and Service or completing a community service project. With the new SOC-BBC point participation requirements, clubs can use some of the extra credit requirements to meet the mandatory club requirements and can seek approval for this from Mintz, according to Ivy Siegel, SOC-BBC advisor.

"For a club to be active and fully funded, or earn $600 in the Fall semester, as well as to remain eligible to make room reservations at BBC, clubs must submit all their paperwork by Sept. 21. To be still considered an active club and be partly funded, clubs must submit the paperwork by Oct. 31.

According to Siegel, clubs must earn a minimum of five points in order to receive 90 percent funding based on funding available at the time.

Clubs must also meet 10 requirements and earn 10 points by Dec. 14 in order to be eligible for funding, was judged in Spring.

The previous SOC-BBC participation requirements required clubs to meet a minimum of 12 items per semester and each organization had to attend four meetings and four events sponsored by FIU.

"The old point system did burden clubs, so we wanted to make something that was easy, would keep them active and be realistic," Mintz said.

"The old system would keep them active but it was unrealistic," according to Siegel, who said the new point system, since about 30 clubs showed up to the July 17 meeting.

"Things are looking better in SOC nowadays. Clubs are registering in the summer and it's typically hard to get people to meetings for existing clubs," Mintz said. "Involvement is rising and we need to keep it rising."

Joe Morris, president of the Biscayne Bay Dramatics, is also hopeful about the new participation requirement system.

"I've seen variations of this point system, I actually think this is probably one of the better ones they've had," Morris said. "Before, I would say, the point system was a little over the top. This is more generic, what clubs should actually do.

For more information, stop by the Campus Life office in the Wolfe University Center, room 141M, or call 305-919-5804.

SJMC students place second in competition

ANA DAVIS AND PEGGY EXUMÉ
Beacon Staff

After graduating from FIU last spring, seven advertising and public relations students from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication received an e-mail that brought them international attention.

The students were Emmanuel Amaral, Tania Berg, Christine Chutino, Velma Ferguson, Kathleen Oliveiro, Ivan Sevil and Anna Mendez-Villamil. They found out this summer that their advertising campaign submission to the International Advertising Association’s annual InterAd XI competition which provides hands-on marketing communications experience for undergraduate students worldwide, won second place among 50 entries in the United States/Canada division of the May competition.

The campaign, “Domino Effects Communication” was completed as part of the student’s Integrated Communication Campaign class requirement.

In the class, the group was chosen to enter the contest based on their strengths and background.

"I was looking for students who had prior experience and could tell 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 of Florida, Siegel said, "We wanted to celebrate but everyone is committed to getting on with their work and compared it to other top students worldwide."" said Ali de la Reza.

Chutino and her classmates worked as an agency. They were required to solve a problem for a real client, the United Nations Millennium Campaign, to gather market data and prepare a marketing plan and supporting creative materials.

"The students have gained a great deal of confidence about their work in addition to putting together first-class pieces for their portfolio," Fiske said. "The students have 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 regional competition which earned them the right to compete against other regional winners from around the world. That group went on to place second worldwide.

"The IAA InterAd competition provides students with real-world deadlines and experiences and [the clients] are usually challenging and excellent. The competition also allows students to compete against other students in their top of their class, to learn how to interact in an agency environment," Fiske said.

According to Chutino the project cost her many nights of sleep but it was worth it.

"We wanted to celebrate but everyone is away for the summer right now. [The excitement and joyous occasion came when we actually finished our product anyway. It was great to see creative advertisements around you, but it's even cooler when you actually created it," Chutino said.

We have for years that this is a top program, but all schools say that. The proof is that we have taken students’ work and compared it to other top schools [worldwide]."
State law denies homosexuals chance to start family

Discriminatory laws like ours are a bruise on all of us. Without the same legal rights as other couples, homosexuals find it harder to create the cohesive family structures which necessary for a good society. Steve Loften and Roger Croteau are two such parents. Currently appealing their lawsuit in Florida, they have the right to be there.

There is a time not long ago when students did not have to go to great lengths to get from FIU’s University Park to the Biscayne Bay Campus. The intercampus shuttle was cheaper, offering students relatively reliable and affordable service.

There have been numerous factors, however, that have threatened to tarnish this convenience. 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 commmute between campuses: the current shuttle schedule remains 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 until at least 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 p.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 will have to spend time and money. Bill Foster, director of Parking and Transportation said, "It is very difficult for students think. Again, it's not something we can't change, but something we decided not to change because we thought it would confuse students instead of helping them."

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 it regardless – 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 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, burdensome chore.

The routes 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.
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.

Beat poet exemplifies “in love with life” philosophy

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-track to pay respects to the man who had inspired me.

“I saw that my life was toward a holy shrine. We were pilgrims racing through our life … Blow as deep as you want to blow.”

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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 being 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, 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 sources from various 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 and 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 sales to charity.

It’s 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 Fuji 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 acommercial 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 his guitar 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 uptempo 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.

Take Advantage of Life!

The Life! section is looking for motivated students to fill the following positions:

- Assistant Life! Editor
- Writers

Find the meaning of this Fall

CAFFEINE, page 5

withdrawal symptoms, which mathematics professor Elizabeth Nicoli-Suco experiences when she doesn’t have her morning cup ofjava. “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 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 later read Kerouac from time to time, and I 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.
UM-FIU poker tourney might come to fruition

POKER, page 8

In the poker world, a "bounty" is a term used to refer to what a player can earn by knocking out another player. The possibility of Division I colleges participating in high stakes poker seems unlikely; however last April, Flagler had a tournament between the UM Med School and its Law School – the Law School won. This tournament had approximately 25 to 30 UM students. According to Haverick, this tournament was arranged through UM fraternities and their students. Poker among college students has been growing steadily. In turn, this could be used as a tool to fuel university rivalries, but only time will tell if UM and FIU will square off in a head-on poker tournament.

FRESHMAN HONORS

FIU will square off in a head-on poker tournament between the UM Med School and its Law School. This tournament was arranged through UM fraternities and their students. Poker among college students has been growing steadily. In turn, this could be used as a tool to fuel university rivalries, but only time will tell if UM and FIU will square off in a head-on poker tournament.

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.

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 Johnson cases. 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 allowed to play this season.

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Do you like sports? Gain invaluable reporting experience covering teams and various athletes Fill out an application in GC 210 or WUC 124

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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 poker, an FIU student managed to capture the interest of 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 of Poker championship bracelet breaking and has become very popular with college

No-Limit Texas Hold’em growing in popularity among college students

a player enters a grand scale tournament. Historically, poker players have been older, mostly people in age brackets above 30. These older players seem not to give much respect to the younger players who tended to play more aggressively and for money more than enjoyment, as opposed to their generation that played mainly for recreation.

However, since the poker boom of 2003, when Chris Moneymaker won 2.5 million dollars in the World Series of Poker’s main event, the popularity of the sport increased.

It was Moneymaker’s first live tournament, and ESPN’s coverage of his story helped the Series’ main event entry field balloon from 839 entries that year to 2,576 in 2005. Chris and the tournament buy-in roof reached $3,000 in 2006, and the tournament buy-in roof reached $1,000 or more in a day.

The Flagler Dog Track in Miami, is one of many venues that have benefitted from the new laws. They needed to open a new poker room in order to meet the high demand created by the high stakes laws. Vice President Alex Havenick has indicated an interest in encouraging college poker players to participate.

The current plans include the possibility of a tournament involving University of Miami and FIU students. “We think it would get an excellent response, and we are going to start advertising in the middle of August,” said Havenick. “We are going to focus on UM and FIU.”

There is also a chance that this tournament could add fuel to the UM – FIU rivalry by putting “bounties” on the heads of all the players.

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

The world of 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 whether they win or lose, they will not regret experiencing playing against the elite players on a big stage wearing their country’s colors.

Falcon’s QB indicted by grand jury

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 what 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 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” used to breed fighting dogs, controlled substances used as enhancers in dogfighting and nearly 700 injured 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 faces up to six years in prison and $300,000 for conspiracy to travel in interstate commerce.

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

Under 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.

Assistant Professor of Law, Michael McCann, says that a federal indictment is an indication that the prosecutor believes he has sufficient evidence to go to court.

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