**DOLLAR DILEMMA**

**A look into our shrinking budget.**

*GGC-BBC discusses its goal at meeting.*

*FUNDING FOCUS*

**GOAL ORIENTED**

**STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**Infidelity in college relationships: a harsh reality.**

*Women’s soccer picks up first victory of season.*

**OVER THE HUMP**

*Graduate student works to open doors for gay students*

**SPREADSHEET**

**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED**

*SGA funds panther pride with tickets*

**MAD DASH:** Students rush the SGA office Sept. 13 in order to obtain a single ticket to the FIU VS UM football game.

**HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS**

*Christina Veiga*

Asst. News Director

Golden Panther pride took over FIU Sept. 13. Students lined up as early as 7:30 a.m. outside the Student Government Association office in the Graham Center to receive one of the limited, free tickets given away for the FIU-University of Miami football game Sept. 15.

Last year, the Athletic Department offered 10,000 free tickets to FIU students, but it didn’t have the funds available to provide the tickets this year. Instead, this time, they were available for $47.

Even though the announcement of the limited free tickets that would be available this year was only made on the night of Sept. 12 through the FIU Web site, word spread quickly.

The line outside SGA at the University Park campus reached the downstairs atrium by 9 a.m.

The giveaway began at 9:01 a.m. and tickets were sold out by 12:40 p.m.

Public Safety was called for crowd control, but there were no serious issues. Even though the University doesn’t usually provide free tickets for road games, SGA and Athletic felt it was important to offer students these tickets to help support Panther pride.

“First and foremost, we offered the tickets to give the students of FIU the opportunity to support the team in 2007-2008. I think that [the tickets costing] $47, it would have affected the number of students able to see the game.”

Toscano said. Athletics also provided busing for the FIU-UM, just like it does for all home games.

*Read the FIU-UM game story at www.beaconnewspaper.com.*

**HIS STORY**

**FIU student among Miami-Dade officers shot**

**DAVID FISCHER**

AP Wire

A massive 12-hour manhunt for a gunman who killed one police officer and injured three others Sept. 13 ended with the suspect shot dead during a gun battle 30 miles away.

Among the three officers injured was FIU student Jody Wright, who is still receiving intensive care at the Jackson Memorial Ryder Trauma Center after receiving a shot on her leg.

Wright, 31, joined the police force a year and a half ago and was completing a degree in criminal justice at FIU.

In an interview with CBS Channel 4, Dennis Dalley, father of Wright, said his daughter’s recovery looks positive after undergoing several operations.


Wright’s family of the dead officer as Jose Somohano, 37, a married father of two.

Dalley, who may have been wearing a bulletproof vest, fled in his car, which was found abandoned 5 miles away, officials said.

An AK-47 assault rifle was found abandoned 5 miles away.

The other two officers were treated and released.

Alvarez said shooting suspect Shawn Sherwin Labeet, 25, was found shortly before midnight Thursday at a Pembroke Pines apartment complex, ending a search that led to traffic snarls, neighborhoods cordoned off, and jangled nerves.

Labeet was armed when police closed in on him about 30 miles north of the original shooting scene, said Alvarez, who said the family of the dead officer was informed of Labeet’s death.

“They asked us for one thing,” Alvarez said. “They asked us to catch the suspect. Well, I’m happy to report that shortly before midnight, we found the subject.”

The officers had been conducting a burglary surveillance in southern Miami-Dade County when they stopped Labeet on Thursday morning because he was driving erratically, police spokeswoman Linda O’Brien said.

Without warning, he opened fire. It was not immediately clear if the officers returned fire.

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**WILLIAMS, page 3**

**WILLIAMS, page 3**

**CHRIS CABRAL**

Asst. UTEF Editor

LGBTQ issues are topics that are very personal to Nadia Williams. As an LGBTQ student, Williams has been involved with LGBTQ organizations like Stonewall for many years. She believes that LGBTQ students need to work together to help each other.

“Back home [in the Bahamas], one of my closest friends struggled with gender issues and, because of where we lived and where we were from, she wasn’t able to say anything or talk about it.” Williams said. “Her mother died of AIDS. She was a lesbian and being from the Bahamas is a lifestyle. People like that were treated... it made me want to do something that would make a difference.”

Because she watched her friend struggle with her sexuality, she decided to accept the LGBTQ graduate assistant position for the Multicultural Programs Services office early Fall 2007.

“Her personality is a good match. She’s a good listener, she’s very intelligent, and she has a great desire to work in her job capacity,” said Jeffrey McNamee, director of MPAS.

Nationally, 3.7 percent of college students identify themselves as LGBTQ while an additional 1.2 percent of students are unsure, according to the 2006 National College Health Assessment.

According to Williams, the actual number of students who are LGBTQ may be higher since many probably keep their orientation secret. The MPAS office is a place on campus where students can feel accepted and embraced.

She supports making National Coming Out Day a more publicized event on campus, and making it a central part of her campaign to help boost awareness of LGBTQ issues and the “coming out” process as a whole.

“I want to raise visibility of this office. I also want to have more social programs to help LGBTQ students get to know each other. We also plan to work with other [LGBTQ] groups like Stonewall to know what [LGBTQ] students need from us,” Williams said.

**WILLIAMS, page 3**

**JEREMY LARSEN**

Asst. News Editor

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BBC holds African Conference

WILMA HERNANDEZ  Staff Writer

February is the national month for African-American history, but for those who don’t want to wait until then may find the 10th annual AfriCANDO “Africa Can Do” Conference enjoyable, presented by the Foundation for Democracy in Africa and the African New World Studies Department at FIU, in collaboration with the Miami-Dade College North Campus.

“As an Afro-optimistic, I believe all is not lost in Africa, if a number of things are done,” said Bertin K. Kouadio, a professor of international relations of School of Social Science, Africa.

Kouadio will present a paper on cultural pluralism and democracy, in which he will explain how ethno-regional differences have shaped the current civil war in Cote d’Ivore, a country in South Africa.

AfriCANDO acknowledges the diversity of African cultures and advocates against the assumption that they restrict or prevent African development. Its overall theme this year will be “African Cultures and Development.”

According to Akin Ogundiran, director of African New World Studies at the Biscayne Bay Campus, the conference is an opportunity to showcase the importance of Africa as a part of globalization by presenting all the resources available for investments in Africa.

“Some people think Africa’s main obstacle for development is culture, but I don’t,” Ogundiran said. “When I became director a year ago, I felt there was a missing piece to the African puzzle. This conference will contribute to the puzzle by addressing African personality and dignity.”

As an Afro-optimistic, I believe all is not lost in Africa, if a number of things are done.

Other thematic discussions will revolve around African values and economic growth, science and technology, African women and many other topics.

The United States has a great deal of respect and authority in Africa to facilitate investments, however, the United States needs to participate more to make it happen,” Kouadio said, “I strongly believe investing in Africa will be a great opportunity for the [United States]. It will gain a lot from this new partnership with Africa with a minimum of will and trust as this continent has long been seen as a place of chaos, decay and uncertainty.

According to Ogundiran, political stability is an important factor that attracts investors to a country.
Criminal justice student injured in Miami shooting

OFFICERS, page 1

was found inside, Alvarez said. It wasn’t immediately known if it was the weapon used in the shooting.

Labeet’s girlfriend was questioned, but she gave officers the name of another man, Alvarez said.

That caused investigators to search for several hours, looking for the other man before he came forward hundreds of miles away in Jacksonville after hearing that he was wanted. He was not involved in the case.

“I’m sure she’ll be facing some charges,” Alvarez said.

In the hours after the shootings, dozens of officers descended on suburban Miami, searching a wide swath of Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

They could be seen drawing their guns as they briefly surrounded a house and then moved on.

They also searched through a garbage truck and stood in the heat, waiting to get back into their blocked off homes.

“It is absolutely as a result of an all-out law enforcement effort to apprehend this individual and some very good investigatory work that we were able to locate him and attempt to place him in custody,” Miami-Dade Police Director Robert Parker said. “Unfortunately, it led to his death.”

-Alcohol reporting by Maria Cheroles, media news director

Survival of the Fittest

MPAS provides tolerance for students

WILLIAMS, page 1

Though she now fights for and works to help LGBTQ students on campus, having grown up in the Bahamas, she says her home country is not nearly as tolerant.

“We refer to ourselves as a Christian nation,” Williams said. “Unfortunately, it led to his death.”

-The country has made headlines for the anti-gay bent of some if its citizens. Many Bahamians, in fact, greeted one recent gay cruise ship with protesters. Williams said.

“We want students with an interest in LGBTQ issues to use MPAS as a resource,” said Allison McCombs, assistant director of the student affairs division of MPAS.

Above all, Williams wants to help all LGBTQ students.

“I have a love for people, regardless of what may seem to divide us, be it class race or sexual orientation. That’s what’s most important,” Williams said.

The Beacon – September 17, 2007

www.beaconnewspaper.com

PREDATORY INSTINCTS:
Fish mauls eel as students pull for the eel to defend itself.
Fernando Garcia/The Beacon

THINK YOU DID THE BEST YOU COULD ON YOUR STUDENT LOAN?

THINK AGAIN.

You may not have been presented with fair and competitive options and rates.
And you may be able to dispute how your loan was handled. To find out more about your rights and your options, contact us.
We will provide a no-obligation Student Loan Consultation.

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THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • SEPTEMBER 17
SOC Club Fair-Academics and Engineering Clubs: 11 a.m., GC Forum (UP)
Panther Rage General Meeting: 4 p.m., GC 140 (UP)
SOC ICS Training Sessions: 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m., GC1204 (UP)
Meet the Fraternities: 6:30 p.m., GC140 (UP)
Undergraduate Studies Advising for Spring 2008 term begins

TUESDAY • SEPTEMBER 18
Multi-Faith Fair: ???, Panther Square (BBC)
September 11 Remembrance Ceremony: 12:30 p.m., Theater (BBC)
SOC ICS Training Sessions: 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m., GC1204 (UP)

WEDNESDAY • SEPTEMBER 19
SGA Days: All Day, WUC (BBC)
Cirque du SGA: 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Flag Pole Area (BBC)
SGA General Meeting: 3:30 - 5 p.m., WUC155 (BBC)
SGA General Meeting: 8 p.m., GC410 (UP)
SOC ICS Training Sessions: 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m., GC1204 (UP)
Health Center Open House: ???, Health Center (BBC)

THURSDAY • SEPTEMBER 20
SOC Orientation: 3 - 5:30 p.m., GC241 (UP)
Leaders of Tomorrow General Meeting: 1:30, GC241 (UP)
Late Day Latte: 5 - 7 p.m., AC1 (BBC)
SOC Club Fair: ???, AC1 (BBC)
SOC ICS Training Sessions: 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m., GC1204 (UP)

FRIDAY • SEPTEMBER 21
SOC Orientation: 9 a.m - 11:30 p.m, GC243 (UP)
SOC ICS Training Sessions: 9 a.m., 10, 11, 12 p.m., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 p.m., GC1204 (UP)
CLS Engage Workshop: 12:30 p.m, GC305 (UP)
Panther Power Pep Rally: ???, WUC (BBC)
Women’s Center Mentoring Program: 5 p.m., GC2200 (UP)
SPC Movie “Shrek the Third”: 7 - 10 p.m., GC140 (UP)
“Cosmology and the Human Understanding of the Universe”: 8 p.m., CP145 (UP)
Council reveals goals at ‘Cirque du SGA’ event

WHAT A CARICATURE

[Cartoon: Guy Michiel, an FIU alum, posed for a caricature portrait during the Cirque du SGA event held on Sept. 12 at the flag pole area outside of the Wolfe University Center. SGC-BBC discussed their annual goals.]

Lecture series to feature alum authors

JESSICA SEÑORIN
Contributing Writer

Anyone with a passion for poetry and prose will have a chance to hear several authors read their work during the Writers on the Bay series. The annual series, which began in 1995, is free and open to the public. The participating writers will visit creative writing classes on campus and interact with students. The lectures occur three times per semester, usually September through November, then in January, March and April.

“Writers on the Bay is for the benefit of FIU students and the Biscayne Bay community to hear contemporary writers read their own work. Writers who come to read meet informally with the audience to discuss [their] craft,” said Denise Duhamel, English and creative writing professor. The Fall series will begin by featuring graduates of FIU’s Master of Fine Arts program and will later focus on the works of authors, Dean Young and Martin. Young, who died last year. Before Smith’s graduation, he was hard at work on a second [memoir] when he died. No one who came in contact with him will ever forget him,” Wakefield said. Drumm, a professor at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers and whose work has appeared in several national literary magazines and journals such as the TriQuarterly Review, hopes to connect with other writers at the event. “It’s all about community. Having moved away from South Florida, I’m mostly looking forward to seeing people I admire and miss working with,” Drumm said. “But it’s also an important for student writers to have knowledge of their contemporaries. This is a great line-up...”

Students should come listen to writers read their work aloud. It’s very important for student writers to have knowledge of their contemporaries,” Duhamel said. “It is a great way for young writers to learn from published ones.”

Some professors say that the series provides a great opportunity for new and old writers. “I’m always excited when a writer I really love is coming to read, like when Dorianne Laux read a few years ago, but at the same time, there have been so many writers whose work I wasn’t familiar with, but I was turned on to them through Writers on the Bay,” said Kathy Curtin, adjunct creative writing professor. “I try to encourage my students who are really interested in writing to see as many readings as possible. I think it’s important for them to see how a writer presents his or her work to an audience.”

Duhamel also advises students to attend the readings. “Students should come listen to writers read their work aloud. It’s very important for student writers to have knowledge of their contemporaries,” Duhamel said. “This will be a great line-up, full of lively poetry and fiction.”

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Financial aid officer’s service has improved

CORINNE WEBB
Special to The Beacon

I would like to offer the following response to the Sept. 13 article, “Financial Fiasco: Financial Aid Falls Short.” Yes, as stated in the article, there were students who waited in line, one week prior to the start of classes, to speak to a financial aid counselor about the status of their application. However, the overwhelming majority of students filed their FAFSA application promptly and received notification of their award well in advance of the start of the semester. As a matter of fact, the Office of Financial Aid was able to disburse a total of $53.3 million to 16,076 students by Sept. 6, the first day for scholarship and grant disbursements.

This $53.3 million represents a historic high in the disbursement of aid within the first eight days of the semester. The following day, on Sept. 7, $12.0 million in refunds were released to more than 9,500 students. Just two years earlier, Fall 2005, only $11.0 million in aid was disbursed to students within the same timeframe. As measured by the amount of aid disbursed, it is clear that the Office of Financial Aid has made a significant and successful effort to expedite the disbursement and delivery of aid.

This historic high was realized, in part, by an aggressive outreach campaign developed by the financial aid staff entitled, “Use your PIN, not your PEN.”

Through posters, e-mail messages, postcards and telephone calls, staff encouraged continuing students to submit their FAFSA application by the March 1 priority deadline. More than 14,000 students responded representing a 32 percent increase in priority FAFSA filers over last year.

As a result, these students were given priority packaging for the 2007-2008 school year. To enhance communications with students, the financial aid office also opened up “Live Chat” on their website, www.finaid.fiu.edu, to allow direct connection with a counselor.

This new communication channel provides students with a transcript of the exchange and offers them an opportunity to assess the counselor’s performance. Approximately 90 percent of the students assessing counselors’ performance rated the quality of their service and helpfulness between excellent and good. This quality performance speaks well of the customer care and attention staff members endeavor to provide students.

The financial aid staff welcomes students’ suggestions for improving the delivery of aid and ensuring the process for securing such aid is communicated effectively.

With this in mind, Francisco Valines, director of Financial Aid, is hosting a special Open Forum Teleconference Sept. 25 at 10 a.m., to enable students to ask questions, share compliments, raise concerns and offer suggestions.

The session will take place in the Green Library 100B at University Park and in the Wolfe University Center Theater at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

We value your ideas and suggestions and look forward to seeing you at the Open Forum.

Every Friday, The Beacon invites members of the FIU community to address students on issues of importance.

This guest column’s author is not a member of The Beacon’s staff.

This week’s guest is Corinne Webb, who is FIU’s vice president for enrollment management.

Any increase must be justified

ERIC FELDMAN
Contributing Writer

Budget cuts throughout Florida are wreaking havoc on public services, including right here at FIU, which has capped enrollment and postponed opening its in-the-works medical school. As the effects of the cuts become more noticeable, it becomes evident that a tuition increase is necessary to maintain quality at Florida public universities.

Though Gov. Charlie Crist vetoed a 5 percent tuition increase for most universities, he may still pass the increase. This would mean an additional $160 expet value for typical undergraduates. This is not all that much money if it is required to keep FIU afloat, as long as the hike is really needed to operate the school and isn’t yet another undue burden on already cash-strapped students.

But reviewing how the Florida State Legislature is spending its money this year suggests that a tuition hike could be avoided. It’s worth asking whether budget cuts are being made in the right places. Both FIU and the University of Central Florida are facing postponement of their medical schools’ opening and Florida Atlantic University may have to cut almost $60,000 from its budget. Meanwhile, Crist approved funding the private University of Miami, which is colorfully named $80 million to fund a genetics institute. UM already charges $33,000 a year in undergraduate tuition and fees, compared to FIU’s $3,400.

According to the Palm Beach Post, state Senator Evelyn Lynn justified giving UM the money because of the “history” UM has with the state – basically because it opened Florida’s first medical school.

First doesn’t always mean best, however. FIU’s recently-chosen law school proves that young institutions can excel if given the right support. With this in mind, Francisco Valines, director of Financial Aid, is hosting a special Open Forum Teleconference Sept. 25 at 10 a.m., to enable students to ask questions, share compliments, raise concerns and offer suggestions.

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Heartbreakers

Statistics prove cheating levels on the rise

CHRISTINA VEIGA
Asst. News Director

Sometimes two can be better than one — except when it comes to relationships.

Case in point: cheating. No, not cheating on tests or papers, but cheating on your significant other. Infidelity happens often among the college crowd, but the rates, reasons and modes can all differ.

So how prevalent is cheating? That’s hard to tell, according to most sources.

If someone lies to a significant other about romantic misdoings, why would that person tell the other about romantic misdoings, other than to avoid a true accusation of cheating?

That’s hard to tell, according to Rose, director of Women’s Studies and Marriage and Family Therapy, 15 percent of husbands admit to extramarital affairs.

According to Dr. Suzanna Rose, director of Women’s Studies, the high rates of infidelity among Blacks is not a cultural defect.

Rather, the high numbers are probably due to the fact that there are more women than men in the Black community, creating a skewed sex ratio.

But the fact that married men have higher rates of fooling around is probably no accident.

“The cultural value is the double standard — that’s across all cultures. It’s more acceptable for men than for women [to cheat],” Rose said.

“I think [people cheat] because Americans are greedy and they want it all, and when it comes to guys, if [women] like more than one, they want them all,” said Faazia Basit, a recent FIU graduate.

The truth is that we cheat for different reasons — sometimes it’s intentional, sometimes it’s just a mistake, some even describe cheating in evolutionary terms.

If you’ve ever gotten frisky with someone after having a few beers, you may have experienced accidental cheating. Accidental cheating occurs when it is not characteristic of the person to be unfaithful and they just have a lapse of judgment — mistakes can happen, Rose said.

Then, there is romantic infidelity where the perpetrator is in a deep, committed relationship, but still messes around.

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“The cultural value is the double standard — that’s across all cultures. It’s more acceptable for men than for women [to cheat],” Rose said.

“I think [people cheat] because Americans are greedy and they want it all, and when it comes to guys, if [women] like more than one, they want them all,” said Faazia Basit, a recent FIU graduate.

The truth is that we cheat for different reasons — sometimes it’s intentional, sometimes it’s just a mistake, some even describe cheating in evolutionary terms.

If you’ve ever gotten frisky with someone after having a few beers, you may have experienced accidental cheating. Accidental cheating occurs when it is not characteristic of the person to be unfaithful and they just have a lapse of judgment — mistakes can happen, Rose said.

Then, there is romantic infidelity where the perpetrator is in a deep, committed relationship, but still messes around.

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Brazilian martial arts-dance hybrid makes its way to FIU

JOSE MAYA
Asst. News Director

They rock back and forth moving from side to side and in and out of the “roda,” or circle, to the beat of instruments such as berimbau, pandeiro and caxixi, while others surround them clapping and singing.

They practice moves and maneuvers such as armada, negativa, macaco and auc.

They have been training at the same spot for close to a year.

“Capoeira became an obsession to me since I was kid. It has stuck to me since then,” said Sean, better known to fellow Capoeirastas or players as “Descalzo,” which translates in Spanish to barefoot, a name he has carried for more than a year.

He is part of a group of students who practices Capoeira Tuesday and Thursday afternoons by the water fountain outside of Primera Casa.

Capoeira is a traditional Brazilian martial art dance game created by Africans who were brought to Brazil by the Portuguese in the 19th century.

And although most of the students who practice with “Descalzo” are not Brazilian, they feel a connection to that country.

“It’s a spiritual connection with an interaction and a dialogue. Once you start playing it becomes addictive,” said Eric Pies, who has been coming to the “games,” as they prefer to call the dances, for a couple of weeks.

Pies also practices the style Capoeira Angola by Deuxieme Maison at night with six other students. Capoeira Angola is a derivation of Capoeira and originally from the state of Bahia in Brazil – it has more trapping and control to it.

“It contains a different emphasis but it still looks beautiful,” Pies said.

And this game is not only limited to men.

“Girls are good Angolera … there is a huge feminine side to it,” said Riquet Caballero, who along with Sean, is one of the original students who started practicing Capoeira last Fall by the fountain; the two met in a Capoeira class.

Caballero has been practicing for two years and respects the dance as well as those who practice it.

“I still suck,” he said when comparing himself to other Capoeirastas who live in Brazil and started playing the game when they were kids.

The group has no hierarchy and sees everyone the same regardless of race, gender or any factor.

They are currently working to get it enrolled with the Student Organization Council for next year.

But even though they are not an official organization they’ve caught a lot of attention.

“They play pretty well. They are challenging with good energy and without getting mad or upset,” said Tommy Peeples, who works as assistant trainer in a mixed martial arts facility in South Miami; it was his first time attending the FIU Capoeiristas game.

Diversity reigns within this group as members come from different parts of the world, like Karol Kwiatkowski, who is known as “Monitor Polaco.”

“I started training Capoeira in Poland. Many of us were taken to practice in Warsaw by the leader of our group Nem,” he said.

Capoeira is not only a fight-like dance game to these students – it’s a technique that offers a lot more.

“There is a philosophy to it. The songs tell stories and I do the research to find out more. I’m still learning Portuguese,” said “Descalzo.”

Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., students can expect to catch these guys and girls swirling and shifting past each other to the beats of different instruments and beats as they gather in the traditional roda.

And although the Capoeira class that was offered last year was not offered this semester due to budget cuts given to all the University’s martial arts classes, the group wants others to become involved and welcome all to join or watch.

For more on this interview and Capoeira music, tune in on Tuesday, September 18 to WRGP, Radiate FM, on 95.3 and 88.1 at 11 a.m. on FIU’s News Talk.
KASSANDRA POOL  
Staff Writer

When asked what she thought about artificial sweeteners, Sheila San Jose, sophomore, quickly responded, “it causes cancer – that’s all I need to know.”

According to www.cancer.gov, lab studies have shown that bladder cancer has been found in laboratory animals when cyclamate, a type of salt, is combined with saccharin, an artificial sweetener.

But no sweeteners including the approved ones out in the market have provided concrete evidence linking cancer in people and the use of artificial sweeteners, products that are part of a multi-million dollar industry and found in an assortment of diet beverages and foods.

According to Professor Konstantinos Kavallieratos from the department of chemistry and biochemistry, all the studies done with relation to artificial sweeteners and losing weight has been done by the same company who sells the product, “so all these diets about artificial sweeteners are based on a fad, it’s not really proven in any way,” he said.

Kavallieratos mentioned that the Coca-Cola Company makes more money from diet coca-cola than from the non-diet product.

This is because people who drink the diet beverage have the mentality that they are not consuming any calories.

Therefore, instead of just drinking one, they drink two or three more as opposed to a person who drinks regular coke and might feel full with just one soda.

This leads to the following question: what is better to use, regular sugar or artificial sugars?

Regular sugar is a natural nutrient extracted from sugar cane. Unlike sugar substitutes, it doesn’t need to go to a laboratory and be made from chemicals; normal sugar gives the body energy and helps it function.

Sweet n’ Low, a commercially popular sugar substitute was introduced in 1957.

Sugar, however, can be traced back to 8,000 years ago, meaning that the long-term effects for sugar substitutes have not been studied by researchers as regular sugar has, which has been available for a much longer amount of time.

Products that contain sugar substitutes are diet coke, light yogurt and juices, soft drinks, breath mints and some over-the-counter drugs.

Most of these products contain aspartame, which is found in the artificial sweetener Equal, introduced in 1981.

Aspartame is harmful to people who have phenylketonuria, a rare genetic disorder; people who suffer from this cannot metabolize one of the acids in aspartame and should not consume this product.

Unlike normal sugar, artificial sweeteners help prevent tooth decay and if you are a diabetic or overweight, it is considered healthier to use.

The most popular sugar substitutes are Sweet n’ low, Equal and Splenda, which was introduced in 2000. Unlike Sweet n’ Low and Equal, which are chemically made, Splenda comes from a sugar derivative, but it contains chlorine as one of its compounds.

Even though it contains chlorine, Wellness Center nutritionist Lori Kupferman stated that it is among the safest sugar substitutes to use.

Kupferman added that three to five percent of the population is addicted to sugar or carbohydrates.

Rosalyn Delgado, (position) likes to use Splenda in her morning coffee but doesn’t require it to get through the day, “If I don’t have it, I won’t go crazy. I wont say, ‘Oh, I need Splenda or I can’t function,’” she said. A teaspoon of regular sugar contains 15 calories. A teaspoon of Splenda contains two calories, but it’s an empty nutrient.

Even though Splenda advertises itself as a zero calorie product, as shown on its web site, www.splendafoodservice.com, in fact it is not.

The Food and Drug Association allows a product to advertise as having zero calories if the packet is under five calories.

With regards to choosing which sugar to use, Kupferman said, “You want to be a good consumer and when something is a chemical and made in the lab, you want to have it in moderation. You don’t want to use too much of it.”

Sugar Substitutes  
Benefits, consequences uncertain

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Inconsistency mars new album

Chris Towers, Asst. Sports Editor

With various studio album releases, the Foo Fighters’ sound has consistently remained near the top of the rock charts and maintained strong sales despite living in the shadow of Dave Grohl’s legendary former band, Nirvana. This trend will likely continue with the release of Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace, due out Sept. 25 on RCA records.

Echoes starts off with an extremely strong five-song run that manages to find a perfect balance between the aggressive, driving sound the Foo Fighters have been noted for since the beginning, and the gentler, more melodic sound the band explored on the acoustic half of 2005’s In Your Honor. While all while still maintaining the band’s signature arena-ready choruses and mixing some unexpected influences in.

The album begins with “The Pretender,” a song that somehow manages to ape the melody from Sesame Street’s “One of These Things Is Not Like The Other” and still sounds ready-made for fist-pumping performances. Following “The Pretender” are a few more strong tracks: “Let It Die” and “Erase/Replace.” Although neither song reinvents the Foo Fighters signature sound, there are elements that do show Grohl is not looking to reinvent the wheel. He might at least consider ways to make the wheel vocals that are usually found in Foo Fighters’ songs.

The following song, “Long Road To Ruin,” is arguably the strongest on the album. While the previous versions represented a somewhat new approach to the Foo Fighters’ formula, the song has a classic Foo Fighters chorus.

There is a reason the band has been one of the most consistent popular rock groups for almost a decade now, and hooks such as the ones found on this song are a huge reason for the popularity. Unfortunately, the album is a bit too heavy, and the second half ends up lagging behind the first; the front half is loaded with big hooks, while the back half has more acoustic ballads and even an instrumental acoustic base track featuring slap guitar virtuoso Kaki King.

This doesn’t mean there are no good songs after track six, as “Statues” the album’s tenth track shows. This is the first Foo Fighters song to use the piano as the main instrument, with nary a guitar in sight until the solo about two and a half minutes in.

This is one of the few songs that truly represents a change in sound for the band, as it sounds more like something off of Paul McCartney’s Ram than Nevermind. Overall, despite slowing down a bit toward the end, the album is another solid, consistent effort for a rock band that has been one of the most consistently popular rock groups for almost a decade now. Only “The Pretender” and “Erase/Replace” are elements that do show the Foo Fighters’ signature sound, there are no good songs after track six. However, they do have a memorable scene akin to a paunch-loving incident in American Pie. The other major supporting character, Joe (Ronny Ross), can’t maintain his high as a kite in nearly all of his scenes, effectively portraying the simple role of a stoner sibling.

Ultimately, Good Luck Chuck relies too heavily on the actors to push the story and laughs forward. Although such a formula works well in the beginning, the film falters near its end by rehashing its jokes and succumbing to predictability. The movie does have its memorable moments, though, unfortunately those scenes are overshadowed by the repetitive nature of the inherently weak script, making the film only worthwhile for some early laughs and a few chuckles thereafter.

While attending the wedding of a former flame, Logan literally bumps into Cam (Jessica Alba), an event that sets up the framework for the rest of the film, which consists of Logan trying to win over Alba’s character, a borderline-obsessed pen-lover, without losing her to the curse. Predictability ensues but so does laughter, thanks to Cook’s mastery of physical comedy and Alba’s surprisingly effective performance.

Scheduled for release on Sept. 21 through Lions Gate Films, Good Luck Chuck’s flimsy and rehearsed premise stays afoot because of Alba’s ability to evoke at least a chuckle from the audience. Most of the film’s funny (and best) moments are driven by Cook’s witty banter and animated reactions, some of which were improvised rather than scripted. Alba, whose character is among the clumsyst to appear on the big screen, provides both aetheristic and comedic relief for viewers, with dialogue that plays off and enhances Cook’s already clever lines.

Although the movie delivers slapstick humor, the humor soon grows old and expected. After seeing Alba walk into a pole or lock herself out of her car for the sixteenth time, even her good looks can’t hide the screenplay’s reliance on placing the characters in the same situation, just in a different setting. However, he does have a memorable scene akin to a paunch-loving incident in American Pie. The other
Offensive firepower dominates second half onslaught in victory over FGCU

SPORTS, page 12

second half,” Gauldron said. “It helped us keep the pressure on the other team’s defense.”

The Bearcats nearly took the lead shortly after as senior forward Danielle White bended a corner kick to senior midfielder Tricia Reed, who headed it towards the goal in the 68th minute. The ball hit the cross bar and the tie remained.

The Golden Panthers had numerous other scoring chances as they held an 8-6 advantage in corner kicks and out-shot the Bearcats 12-10. However, they failed to convert any of their corner kicks into goals, generally leaving the ball just out of the reach of teammates in front of the goal.

Nonetheless, the Golden Panthers took the lead in the 76th minute as Gauldron was again in the middle of the action. She found sophomore midfielder Marina Pappas in the middle of the box, who shot the ball into the bottom, left corner of the goal, putting the Golden Panthers on top for good.

“There’s always chaos in the box,” Pappas said. “I had my head down and just took one touch and hit it.”

Pappas recorded her second goal of the season, tying her with Gauldron for the team lead. Gauldron scored one of the team’s two goals in the overtime loss to Florida Gulf Coast and Pappas notched the team’s only goal in the 1-1 tie against North Florida Aug. 31.

The Golden Panthers nearly scored again in the 80th minute, as White was given a yellow card following a hard tackle. The Golden Panthers could not find the net on the corner kick and would not find the net for the rest of the game.

They would still manage to hold on to the win thanks to the strong defensive play of junior defender Kla Rigsby and senior goalkeeper Jessica Vaccaro, who replaced Gannon at halftime and made one save.

The team gets another long break between games, as it doesn’t play again until Sept. 21 against Murray State at University Park at 6 p.m.

Following the game, Chestnutt was simply relieved he got over the hump and picked up his first victory.

“It feels good,” he said. “The ladies worked hard. They deserve it. They definitely deserve it.”

Pappas mirrored her coach’s sentiments, explaining that the team had been performing better than their record indicated and that eventually they would catch up.

“We’ve been playing well, even though we’ve been losing,” she said. “We just needed to pick up that first win.”

Football and wrestling techniques intertwine on the field

FIGHTING, page12

acts of extreme violence in the UFC such as biting, attacking a downed opponent and groin strikes, the UFC gained some legitimacy and became what it is today. UFC is currently very popular and has drawn millions of fans.

Most members of organizations like the UFC and WWE often have a background in the martial arts and sometimes football.

Dwayne Johnson or “The Rock” entered his fans for years by making an impressive entrance, giving his fans if they smelled what he was cooking in the martial arts and sometimes football.

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Dwayne Johnson or “The Rock” entered his fans for years by making an impressive entrance, giving his fans if they smelled what he was cooking in the wrestling ring.

Prior to becoming one of the most popular actors in the business and an actor, he played defensive line for the University of Miami.

Fellow lineman Leavine is not the only fan of fighting sports on the FIU football team. Head football coach and former University of Miami offensive lineman Mario Cristobal played with Johnson on the 1991 National Championship team at UM, and is also a fan of the sport.

He has been training in the martial arts for recreation since he was young and is a fan of the UFC.

Cristobal even acknowledges that some forms of martial arts can be effective and even legal on the football field.

“Guys who are real good at hand to hand combat have been very effective in teaching offensive and defensive linemen how to gain leverage and how to gain inside hand position on certain players,” Cristobal said.

Fighting is a sport that has never lost its popularity, but has taken different forms throughout the years.

Whether the fighters are wearing spandex, g-strings or grappling in a ring, fighting entertain people much like organized sports does.

Team uses speed on both sides of the ball to outlast opponent

COMMENTARY, page 11

the game. The second half resumed with a new goalkeeper, senior Jessica Vaccaro, but with the same energy.

The first 15 minutes saw no clear advantage. Then, one pass shifted the momentum in favor of the home team.

Junior midfielder Amy Jackson crossed a precise pass at the feet of Gauldron, who was breaking towards the goal with a defender on her back.

As she controlled the ball, she accelerated towards the incoming goalie like a bull charging a matador’s target. The goalie slid at Gauldron’s feet, but it was too late. The ball was already on course for Gauldron’s third career goal.

The celebration ensued with Gauldron pointing a number one at the crowd as it shook the stands.

Yet, the Bearcats showed their resilience by shooting a header off the crossbar. The near-goal completed the disintegration of the Bearcats’ morale. Their heads low, coupled with low stamina, spelled the end of the game for the Bearcats.

Gauldron continued her night by passing the ball to Pappas for the game-winning score. The 2-1 win is what the team needed to relax.

The Golden Panthers can now stick to playing their style rather than letting opposing teams decide the pace of the game.

They won a game against a team they should’ve beat, but that doesn’t detract from the comeback they made.

Chestnutt’s first win at FIU was a direct result of his three-a-day practices and instruction. He planned the long break before this break before the season commenced.

The offense will need to take advantage of their ball handling skills to produce more points.

The team’s speed, agility and stamina are the tools they need to use to succeed this season.
Golden Panther alumni make major league debuts

Josh Banks and Willie Collazo, two former FIU pitchers, made their Major League Baseball debut in September with the Toronto Blue Jays and New York Mets, respectively.

The left-handed Collazo’s debut came on Sept. 2 against the Cincinnati Reds. He allowed two hits in 2/3 scoreless innings. He also contributed to the 2006 Puerto Rican World Baseball Classic team.

Collazo was a 10th round draft pick of the Atlanta Braves in 2001. He attended FIU from 2000-2001 after transferring from Kirkwood Community College in Iowa.

“These two always wanted the ball,” Price said. “They’ve been loyal to the program, and they’ve comeback to help out with the program.”

Sergio Bonilla
Sports Editor

The second victorious FIU team this fall finally revealed itself: women’s soccer.

Women’s volleyball was the first Fall sport team to record a win this season, now women’s soccer has succeeded in becoming the second.

The team’s resilience, however, began to overcome the Bearcats’ early strike throughout the first half. They continued to pressure the Bearcats with a stellar defensive effort. The Golden Panthers’ defensive unit dictated the pace of the entire game.

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Future games show that a slow, low-scoring game favors the Golden Panthers because they are able to wear down the opposing team.

Despite their size disadvantage, the Golden Panthers’ defenders were aggressively attacking the opposing team’s offensive playmakers.

On the offensive side of the ball, junior forward Maria Gauldron was causing havoc for Bearcats defenders. Her speed had defenders chasing after her many times. On the other hand, her offensive charge was halted continuously.

She also began to show signs of fatigue, at one point, she had to place her hands on her knees and catch her breath.

The one goal was the only offense either team could muster in the first half.

New coach Thomas Chestnutt’s rigorous practices would affect the second half of play. Now that the defensive unit had regained control and the offense was exhausting the Bearcats defense, it was a game of endurance.

The team with the best stamina and conditioning would be the winner of the game.

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For their second goal of the season.

“We played too panicky in the first half,” said coach Thomas Chestnutt, who recorded his first victory at FIU. However, the team's conditioning came together and took a shot from 30 yards out that arched towards the goal, bouncing off the left goal post past senior goalkeeper Madeline Gannon. “I made a rookie mistake, but my team helped with recovery, but also may have committed two yellow cards. Finally, in the 66th minute, the Golden Panthers answered back. Off a through pass by junior midfielder Amy Jackson, junior midfielder Maria Gauldron streaked past two Bearcats defenders and beat the goalie one-on-one for her second goal of the season.

“I think our speed helped us a lot in the last few minutes of the game against the Binghamton University Bearcats Sept. 13 at University Park. It looked as though the Golden Panthers (1-1-1) were going to extend their winless streak to three games. However, the Golden Panthers pulled together with a strong second-half surge that featured two goals and defeated the Bearcats 2-1 in their home opener Sept. 15 at University Park.”

Junior midfielder Maria Gauldron celebrates following her goal in the 66th minute of play against Binghamton University Bearcats Sept. 13 at University Park...