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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 gunbattle 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 hours of surgery on her injured leg.

“They've been able to save her leg at this point. We're confident she will be able to walk again, but it's going to be a long haul,” Dalley told CBS 4.

Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez identified the dead officer as Jose Somoano, 37, a married father of two.

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 subject. 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.

Labeet, 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, officials said.

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

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

SGA funds panther pride with tickets

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, according to Jose Toscano, assistant director and advisor to SGA.

“Every FIU student was very polite and cooperative,” Toscano said. “Everyone was very collaborative.”

SGA, Panther Rage, the Resident and Housing Association and Campus Life pulled the money together to pay for the tickets, which cost a total of $7,500.

Although the University doesn't usually provide free tickets for road games, SGA and Athletics 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.

“Having a couple thousand students there will create school spirit and I think that’ll be evident at the game,” Toscano said.

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

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

GOAL ORIENTED
SGC-BBC discusses its goal at meeting.

DOLLAR DILEMMA
A look into our shrinking budget.

STUDENT AFFAIRS
Infidelity in college relationships a harsh reality.

OVER THE HUMP
Women's soccer picks up first victory of season.

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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-optimist, 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 Sub-Saharan 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 ‘Ivoire, a country in South Africa.

At AfriCANDO acknowledge 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.”

Other related 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.

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**FENDER BENDER**

**CRASH:** Public safety officers respond to an accident that occurred on Sept. 13. A red Kia and silver Mitsubishi crashed while entering the University’s roundabout.

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**Police Notes**

**Sept. 4, 2007** - A student had his jewelry stolen at the Recreation Center’s basketball court. The student stated that he placed his necklace on the court and upon returning, noticed that the jewelry, valued at $150, was missing.

**Sept. 5, 2007** - Two female students unloading items from their vehicle to their dorm room at Everglades Hall returned to their vehicle to find that several items had been stolen. The students stated that the vehicle was unlocked. Among the stolen items were a PDA mobile device, a wallet and several clothing items.

**Sept. 6, 2007** - A Panther Hall resident told police that while he momentarily stepped out of his dorm room, an unidentified person entered his room and stole his cell phone and Sony Vaio laptop computer. The student had left the door unlocked.

**Sept. 7, 2007** - Police on SW 107th Ave. stopped a male who was not an FIU student for displaying prohibited blue lights on the hood of his car. Upon tag check, it was revealed that the tag number did not belong to the vehicle and the male was driving with a suspended driver’s license. The male was arrested.
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.

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

That caused investigators to waste several hours looking for the other man before he came forward hundreds of miles away in Jacksonville after hearing 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 as others scoured a grassy area on foot. A federal government helicopter buzzed overhead.

Several schools in the area were locked down during the search and warnings were issued.

FIU alerted its community about the suspect search through an University-wide e-mail that also warned about traffic delays after parts of the Turnpike were briefly closed.

After the last, fatal exchange of gunfire, at least a dozen residents 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.”

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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 [in the Bahamas] refer to ourselves as a ‘Christian nation.’ [Homosexuality] is not something people are open about,” Williams said. “I think it’s unfortunate that people still think that way.”

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 protestors Williams said. In 2006, Bahamian censors even banned Brokeback Mountain, citing the film’s “extreme homosexuality.”

“It’s a form of prejudice. And I don’t think any form of prejudice should be accepted. I don’t believe we should be prejudiced toward anyone for any reason,” said Williams.

The MPAS staff looks forward to working with Williams in service of LGBTQ students, according to Robert Coatie, senior director of MPAS.

“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 they may seem to divide us, be it class race or sexual orientation. That’s what’s most important,” Williams said.4
Council reveals goals at ‘Cirque du SGA’ event

CHRISTINA LEMUS
Staff Writer

The Biscayne Bay Campus’ Student Government Association announced their goals for the year to students attending Cirque du SGA, an event where students enjoyed games and free food. The event took place at the flag pole area outside of the Wolfe University Center on Sept. 12.

SGC-BBC made sure to promote objectives across to students not only by making announcements of the event, but also with poster-sized outlines of the council’s goals and the Student Government Association’s University-wide goals.

Interns and SGC-BBC representatives were available throughout the event to answer student questions and promote SGC-BBC.

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 honor to join other alumni to share our work and to celebrate the accomplishments of FIU’s writing community.”

The annual series, which began in 1985, is free and open to the public.

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“Denise Duhamel, English and creative writing professor

WHAT A CARICATURE

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Denise Duhamel, English and creative writing professor

according to Katiana Saintable, SGC-BBC president, some of the council’s goals for BBC are ensuring that student services are efficient, establishing relationships with the North Miami community and increasing campus awareness.

“The Student Government Association is working toward establishing a good relationship with the community so that long term goals like traffic and opening 135th street can be easier to accomplish,” Saintable said.

According to Katiana Saintable, SGC-BBC student services are efficient is by considering students’ input on the cafeteria’s menu.

One way the council is making sure student services are efficient is by considering students’ input on the cafeteria’s menu.

“Some have already been installed into individual bathrooms, writers are working on having them installed into every bathroom of Bay Vista Housing,” Saintable said.

SGC-BBC is starting a “going green” initiative. Their goal for environmental awareness is to implement energy-saving and recycling programs.

Students attending the event could key in their cafeteria’s menu into laptops students could key in their cafeteria’s menu. But during the event, students enjoyed games and free food.

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 Lee Martin.

The last two readings will feature renowned authors who come to read meet informally with the audience to discuss [their] craft,” said Denise Duhamel, English and creative writing professor.

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“Ricky Smith was an outspoken, colorful student who made a lasting impression on the program. He completed a masterful memoir, Leaving Home and was hard at work on a second [memoir] when he died. No one who came in contact with him will ever forget him,” Waterfield said.

The last two readings will feature Young and Martin. Young, who received numerous fellowships and won the first Colorado Poetry Prize for his book, Strike Anywhere (1995), will read his work on Oct. 25 at 8 p.m.

Martin, director of Ohio State University’s Creative Writing Program and whose novel, The Bright Forever, was a finalist for the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, will read on Nov. 29 at 8 p.m.

Both readings will be at the Biscayne Bay Campus; the exact location on campus has not been confirmed.

“I am really excited when a writer I really love is coming to read, like when Doriana Laurs 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.

“[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.

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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 disbursal of aid within the first eight days of the semester.

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 students 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.

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 expense a year 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 $40,000 from its budget. Meanwhile, Crist approved giving the private University of Miami $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-chris
tened law school proves that young institutions can excel if given the opportunity. And it’s simply wrong to give private businesses taxpayer money while neglecting public programs. FIU has already hired faculty members for the medical school and FAU has already put $2 million into taking over an oceanographic research facility which it may no longer be able to afford, but both of these may turn out to be a waste of money if the Legislature continues to put UM first.

In spirit, we should be hesitant to relinquish our money without great scrutiny, lest we end up with increases being passed without question.

In the end, students may have to fork over a little more money every semester. And it will be worth it if more students are able to enroll in our school, if the College of Medicine is given the opportunity to open on time and if it lets our professors actually afford to print out syllabi copies for their students.

As we write out our tuition checks for hefty amounts, however, let’s just hope that every step was taken to prevent tuition from rising: making the right decisions on which programs to support, re-examining the salaries of the highest paid executives on both the university and state level and eliminating bureaucratic waste.

Proponents of raising the tuition argue that Florida universities are already a bargain, cheaper than universities in other states. Isn’t that a reputation we should work to keep?
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.

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 Faatira 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 to the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, 15 percent of wives and 20 percent of husbands admit to extramarital affairs.

Different ethnic groups were surveyed and Blacks have the highest rates of infidelity with 27 percent, while statistics for Whites and Hispanics are 15 percent.

According to the study No Strings Attached: Statistics prove cheating levels on the rise, the high rates of infidelity among Blacks is not a cultural defect.

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The truth is that we cheat for different reasons — sometimes it’s intentional, sometimes it’s just a mistake, some even
Brazilian martial arts-dance hybrid makes its way to FIU

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 au. 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.

“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.
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.

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 contains 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 won’t 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.”
MUSIC

Foo Fighters – Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace
Inconsistency mars new album

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. Sports Editor

With various studio album releases, the Foo Fighters have consistently remained near the top of the rock charts and maintained strong sales despite living in the shadows 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 known for since the beginning, and the gentler, more melodic sound the band explored on the acoustic half of 2005’s In Your Honor. 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 vocalts 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 songs represented a somewhat new approach to the Foo Fighters’ formula, this song has a classic Foo Fighters chorus.

There is a reason the band has been one of the most consistently 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 “Stutter” 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, if not spectacular, entry into the Foo Fighters catalog, and while they aren’t breaking any new ground for rock music, they are finding ways to reinvent a signature sound.

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-obsessive puppet lover, without losing her to the curse. Predictability ensues but so does laughs, 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 afloat because of Cook’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 clumsiest to appear on the big screen, provides both aesthetic 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 pastry-loving incident in American Pie. The other major supporting character, Joe (Lenny Ross), Cam’s brother, appears 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, but unfortunately those scenes are overshadowed by the repetitious nature of the inherently weak script, making the film only worthwhile for its memorable scenes, effectively portraying the simple role of a stoner sibling.

In your home or your car, DRIVE WITH SPRINT.

REVIEWS

GEORGY ANDERSON JR.
Lifestyle Editor

Ample nudity and stuffed animal love-making mark comedian Dane Cook’s latest film, Good Luck Chuck, which starts off strong with plenty of laughs but ultimately ends its lucky streak with numerous clichés and an all-too-predictable ending.

Cook plays Charles Logan, a dentist who was hexed when he was ten years old in a hilarious spin-off that makes any woman who sleeps with him find her soul mate, leaving Logan lonely. Unsurprisingly, news of the curse spreads quickly and Logan soon finds that his patient list has increased exponentially.

With dialogue that plays off and enhances Cook’s already clever lines, the film falters near its end by rehashing its jokes and succumbing to predictability.

The movie does have its memorable moments, though, but unfortunately those scenes are overshadowed by the repetitious nature of the inherently weak script, making the film only worthwhile for some early laughs and a few chuckles thereafter.
FIGHTING, page 12

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

Chuck Liddell is one of the faces of Ultimate Fighting Championship. UFC has grown in popularity amongst athletes on the field.

The team uses speed on both sides of the ball to outlast opponent.

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 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 Kia Rigsby and senior goalkeeper Jessica Vaccaro, who replaced Gunnan 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 coaches’ 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.”

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

Part-time babysitter needed for 2 year old in MY home. Someone who likes to keep active with my son. I am looking to have someone 15 hours a week. Weekday afternoons 2-5 with possibly some nights and weekends. Must have own car. Please call 305-931-9916 and leave a message.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROOM FOR RENT $375. Female Student ONLY. Near FIU; Second Floor, private home, furnished, microwave, fridge; utilities included. 1/2 month deposit. Elnosa 305-223-9881


Sports

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 shouldn’t have 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 be successful this season.
Mental and physical stamina lead to improvement, win

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. Sophomore midfielder Marina Papa's kick inside the box late in the second half sealed the Golden Panthers' victory.

However at the outset of the team's first home game, it looked as if the Golden Panthers would waste another manageable contest.

All it took was five minutes for FIU to trail the Binghamton University Bearcats 1-0.

Lady luck blessed the Bearcats with a stellar defensive effort. The Golden Panthers' defenders were 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.

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.

Past 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.

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**COMMENTARY, page 10**
LADIES STRIKE FIRST

Golden Panthers pick up first win, in come from behind fashion

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. Sports Editor

After falling behind in the early minutes of their game against the Binghamton University Bearcats (0-3-1), 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. 13 at University Park.

Despite controlling the ball for much of the opening minutes of the game and recording the first shot on the Bearcats’ goal in the first minute of the game, the Golden Panthers would not strike first.

Binghamton senior midfielder Tricia Reed took control of the ball following a steal, which pushed the ball into FIU territory and took a shot from 30 yards out that arched towards the goal, bouncing off of the left goal post past senior goalkeeper Madeline Gannon.

“I made a rookie mistake, but my team got me through it,” Gannon said.

While the team had several chances in the first half, including three corner kicks and one shot off of the post, the Golden Panthers had 11 days off, which helped with recovery, but also may have led to the slow start in the game.

“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 into play heading into the second half, and they out-shot the Bearcats in the second half and also pressured them into committing two yellow cards.

Finally, in the 66th minute, the Golden Panthers answered back.

Off a through pass by junior midfielder Madeline Gannon.

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

“Playing football is just a way for me to enjoy the game,” Gauldron said.

Gauldron streaked past two Bearcats defenders and beat the goalie one-on-one for her second goal of the season.

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