**NCAA: Athletics violated bylaws**

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

The NCAA sent FIU a notice of allegations statute the University violated several NCAA bylaws. The letter detailed that 40 student-athletes competed while ineligible and that men's soccer, women's soccer and women's golf incorrectly applied NCAA financial aid legislation.

The NCAA has requested the University to send them records to confirm whether the allegations are correct.

The institution must submit responses to the allegations by Dec. 4, 2007.

For the full story, visit Beaconnewspaper.com.

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**Event recognizes, awards faculty**

**DANIELLA BICIGALUPO**
Staff Writer

Silent, somber, black-shirted FIU students surrounded the Graham Center Pit in February, their culminating to the much anticipated Pan-African Celebration that should have delivered the richness and variety of African culture.

"No My history," the Student of the Pan-African Celebration did not accurately represent a black celebration, exemplifies the race problem that American students lack cultural awareness, recognition and racial prejudice.

"As a result, FIU will be among the 11 universities adopting a program that aims to foster racial understanding through student-adopted, open discussions that explore racial prejudice," Benford believes a college setting is ideal to conduct a forum like this one because of the abundance of students available that can bring their leadership, energy and opinions into the race discourse.

MPS hopes the discussions will be constructive for finding different viewpoints on race themes.

A topic will be selected to begin each session but conversation will be "as organic will be," Benford said.

Hate crime incidents such as the Jena 6 and the recent race-motivated attack on FIU student Stephen Barnett will be potential launch points to discuss race-related questions, "What is the nature of the racial problem?" Benford said.

Although FIU has a multicultural community, Benford explains diversity does not equal racial tokenism conversations.

"Faculty Convocation Awards Ceremony Oct. 5 at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center."

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**Adopt-a-Player program funded**

**BEN F. BADGER JR.**
Asst. News Director

In order to foster student involvement with the community, the Student Government Council of the University Park campus approved $1,500 to fund the Adopt-a-Player Program.

The goal of the program is to promote panther pride at FIU and the surrounding community.

"This is a program I wanted to start," said Jennifer Ruiz, speaker of the House for SGC-UP and founder of the Adopt-a-Player program. "I wanted it to be an SGA event."

The SGC-UP is funding 100 percent of the program with athletics essentially donating the time and commitment of the football players.

The program involves 20 FIU organizations adopting one of 20 FIU football team players by showing their support for that player during the next home game.

"All they're really looking for is support," Ruiz said.

Any FIU organization can participate.

A meet-and-greet pep rally is being planned for various FIU organizations to meet the players and make a choice as to who they want to sponsor.

Once a player has been adopted, the organization would be responsible for having at least 10 of their members root for that player.

"It will boost morale and build partnerships," Ruiz said.

In return for attending the home games and rooting for the players, each adopted player will attend two events and meet the student body hosted or involving the organization that adopted them.

Mario Cristobal heads the football team is enthusiastic over the possibilities the program may lead to.

According to Cristobal, all of the players have reacted well to the program.

"They do not have much time to interact with the student body," Cristobal said.

Cristobal hopes that the Adopt-a-Player program will grow beyond the 20 initial players. Details regarding the exact implementation are still being determined, but Ruiz is confident the program will be a success for the Louisiana-Lafayette match Nov. 17.

"Bottom line is that we will generate support," Cristobal said.
Maidique addresses issues, faculty

AWARDS, page 1
Recent budget cuts and tuition increases in the state of Florida.

"I am speaking to you today with a sense of relief," Maidique said.

"With the help of our friends in legislators and elsewhere, we have beaten back the ignoble proposals that made relative to our budget."

Maidique assured the audience the proposed budget cuts would not be affected by the proposed budget cuts, while setting a tone of hard times to come.

"This is not to say that we don't have a bumpy road ahead," Maidique said.

To combat the cuts, Maidique said FIU will have to secure more funding from the private sector.

Maidique also assured the cuts would not affect the opening of the new University medical school slated to open in October.

Referring to recent efforts by President and CEO Bruce Hauptli turned attention away from the community because of your collective efforts and accomplishments.

Bruce Hauptli, Faculty Senate chair.

Our University is a vibrant academic community because of your collective efforts and accomplishments.

"I had negative experiences," Maidique said. "We believe is not that different from the Ypsilanti Police Department and will ultimately cultivate a positive image of the department.

"I think we've been very reactive to any situations that have come up on campus and I think we've been valuable in providing a good level of service for all of the University community," Maidique said.

TUESDAY • OCTOBER 9
(Similarities) Catholicism & Judaism- A Dialogue: 12 p.m., Theatre (UP)
Dance and Music Golden Idol Auditions: 12 - 2 p.m., GC Pit (UP)
Hugh Willoughby “Shifting Climates of the 21st Century”: 12:30 p.m., GC 243 (UP)
Catholic Student Union- Holy Mass: 12 p.m., GC 140 (UP)
French-Canadian Film Festival presents “Memories Affectives”: 7 p.m., GC 221 (UP)
Dance Marathon Golden Idol Auditions: 7:30 p.m., GC 140 (UP)
Panther Power Meeting: 2 p.m., WUC 157 (BBC)

WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 10
Panhellic Charity Denim Fundraiser for Breast Awareness: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., GC Pit (UP)
Catholic Student Union- Eucharistic Adoration: 12 - 1 p.m., GC 150 (UP)
French-Canadian Film Festival presents “Le Survenant”: 2 p.m., GC 140 (UP)
SGA General Meeting: 5:30 p.m., WUC155 (BBC)
SGA General Meeting: 4 p.m., GC140 (UP)
Alternative Breaks Information Session: 8 - 9 p.m., Lakervile South - Multi Purpose Room (UP)

THURSDAY • OCTOBER 11
FIU Wear Pink Day: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., (UP)
Catholic Student Union- St. Joseph’s Day: 12 - 1 p.m., GC 150 (UP)
French-Canadian Film Festival presents “C.R.A.Z.Y.”: 2 p.m., GC 140 (UP)
SPC Latin Karaoke: 7 p.m., Gracie’s Grill (UP)
National Coming Out Day: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Info Table in Panther Square (BBC) & All Day at UP

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 12
Party in the Pit- Hispanic Heritage: 12 p.m., GC Pit (UP)
CLS Engage Workshop: 12:30 p.m., GC 305 (UP)
South Florida Chapter of the American STA: 7 p.m., HLS 180 (UP)
SPC “Lost City” w/ dinner: 8 p.m., GC140 (UP)
A Night of Rumi: 7:30 p.m., GC Ballrooms (UP)
“Pip Brant: The Flying Carpet & Other Re-uses” opening reception: 7 p.m., Front Art Museum, (UP)

NEWSFLASH
FIU’s athletic training program evaluated
FIU could become the first University in Florida to offer an accredited entry-level master’s programs in athletic training if it’s approved by two representatives from the Commission on Accreditation for Athletic Training Education who will visit the University Oct. 17 through Oct. 19.

Athletic trainers specialize in the prevention and rehabilitation of injuries in physically-active individuals. If the program is accredited, FIU will join the universities in the country already offering the program.

During the three-day visit, CAATE representatives will inspect both the school’s on and off campus facilities to make sure they meet compliance and accreditation standards; they will also interview deans, faculty, students, as well as the medical director and athletic trainers involved in the program.

"It is key because students have to graduate from an accredited program to be eligible to sit for the board of certification exam," said Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo, athletic training chair and program director.

CAATE will announce its decision by next Feb.

Bruce Hauptli, Faculty Senate chair.

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"I had negative experiences," Maidique said. "We believe is not that different from the Ypsilanti Police Department and will ultimately cultivate a positive image of the department.

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New fitness center to enhance workouts

PATRICIA GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

Senior Kenid Joseph will be one of many students who will have a chance to utilize the Biscayne Bay Campus's new state-of-the-art fitness center, scheduled to open on Oct. 12.

For the past year, Joseph had been working out at BBC's former fitness center, located on the third floor of the Wolfe University Center.

She agreed BBC needed an upgraded fitness facility.

"The old gym felt cramped. There was such a small amount of equipment that I had to wait in line for people to finish using the machines," Joseph said.

The fitness center’s open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony will be on Oct. 12 at 10 a.m.

Tours of the new facility, located at WUC 160, will be given, as well as demonstrations of the machines by representatives of equipment manufacturers such as Life Fitness, Hammer Strength, and Hampton Strength Systems.

Students will have the opportunity to collect giveaways and refreshments, such as towels and water bottles.

Faculty and staff will get the chance to win a membership through a raffle.

The new fitness center will have more than double the number of equipment than the former fitness center. For example, 21 cardiovascular machines are expected to be in the cardio village section; the former center only had four.

Nine plasma screen televisions will be installed in the new fitness center. The center also will include a 1,100 square foot aerobics studio offering many classes such as hip-hop, kickboxing, ballroom dancing, and belly dancing.

Whereas the former fitness center hosted the aerobics classes in the same room where students used the exercise equipment, the new center has a designated aerobics room. The room also will be utilized for conducting yoga classes in collaboration with The Wellness Center.

In addition to offering courses on meditation and stress management, complimentary massages will be offered.

Also provided are women’s and men’s locker rooms complete with restrooms and showers.

"This fitness center is going to offer a lot more options for students. The objective is to help all students feel like there is something there that they can benefit from, in terms of the equipment, the classes that are offered, and the convenience of the facility," said Cathy Akens, assistant vice president for Student Affairs.

"The reason for building the new $12,000 square foot facility was to meet the needs of the students, according to Elias Bardawil, associate director of campus recreation.

"The new fitness center is much more female friendly. There is more equipment [ideal] for the deconditioned athlete."

"The equipment in the current fitness center is plate-loaded which makes it more difficult for someone who is not used to working out," Bardawil said.

Students with less experience working out will have a passage that leads to the new closed Aquatic Center.

Although no date has been set for the reopening of the Aquatic Center, it is anticipated to be a very important asset to the fitness center.

Together, the Fitness and Aquatic Centers will form a combined 70,000 square foot mega recreational complex, Bardawil said.

"The Aquatic Center is going to provide an optimal balance of recreational programs, academic classes, and varsity athletics," Bardawil said, in reference to swimming, lifeguard and scuba diving classes that will be offered at the Aquatic Center in the future.

James Wassenaar, executive director of student affairs operations and auxiliary services, feels that the new facility will improve the quality of life for students living on campus.

"The fitness center is an important amenity for resident students. They spend 24 hours a day, and seven days on campus.

"I hope that it is seen as another wonderful facility for students to utilize," Wassenaar said.

Religious club caters to Witnesses

CATHARINE KAJMAN
Contributing Writer

When a traveling Jehovah’s Witnesses club overseer suggested to Anthony Muthra, a construction management major, to start a club chapter at FIU in December 2006, Muthra showed it was a great idea.

A month later, the Jehovah’s Witnesses club was formed at the Biscayne Bay Campus and it currently has 10 members.

"I really enjoy being a part of this organization because we help clear up misconceptions about what [Jehovah’s] Witnesses are, how we organize, and what we believe in," said Muthra, the club’s vice president.

The club wanted to share their beliefs with each other and the rest of the student body, according to Voltaire Lyxis, an FIU alum and the club’s president.

"The club is a way for students who are Jehovah’s Witnesses to express their concern for their fellow students and educators by providing Bible-based literature that encourages moral values and answers some of life’s most serious questions," Lyxis said.

The Jehovah’s Witnesses religion was founded in 1870. It interprets the Bible to be God’s word and is historically accurate. People practicing the religion believe that Jesus Christ was God’s son and try to live in accordance with Jesus’s life.

The religion currently has 7 million members across the world.

The club’s mission statement, written by Lyxis, is: 

"Moral instruction and education are inseparable. This was the conclusion of [Russian author and philosopher] Leo Tolstoy’s lifetime of religion and experience. The purpose of the student organization is to distribute literature that helps one to appreciate that there needs to be the [teaching] of moral values if education is to be beneficial."

Club members provide any student who is interested in becoming a Jehovah’s Witness with home Bible studies, free of charge. These individual lessons teach the religion’s interpretations and analyze particular passages of the Bible.

The club recruits members through tabling, which is set up in the Wolfe University Center at various times during the week. Students can pick up information on the religion and the club as well as talk to club members.

The club meets once a month at BBC at varied times and locations. When it is difficult to organize the group meetings, they are conducted over the phone to discuss club issues. To ensure that everyone has a chance to read the material, communications are made for the visually or hearing impaired.

"I enjoy the meetings because everyone is friendly and I love that we take the time to study the Bible and discuss it as a group, rather than everyone having their own analysis," said Wade Charlestant, a senior majoring in education and a club member.

The club is still a work in progress, Muthra said. He and the club members hope to schedule events for students to watch videos on the religion’s beliefs and history.

Although the clubs have not set any events yet, Muthra said that students would be made aware when there are special guest speakers and lecturers, such as prominent Jehovah’s Witnesses, in any of the South Florida congregations.

The club does not have its own Web site, but anyone interested in learning more about the religion should visit The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society’s Web site, www.watchtower.org, according to Lyxis. All Jehovah’s Witnesses congregations fall under The Watchtower Society, an organization that distributes all literature and books to its followers.

For information, e-mail Muthra at modena99@gmail.com.

JOIN OUR STAFF!

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 and pick up an application.
Professor uses life experiences for work, plays

GLENN COINE
Contributing Writer

Professor Mario Diament of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication said the most significant aspects of his career have been his experiences with investigative reporting, theater writing, and growing up under a military dictatorship in Argentina. “I think that after doing all the things I have done and the things I still expect to do and having lived through times of turmoil and despair and times of hope and happiness I have gained a certain insight into the nature of people,” Diament said. Born in Argentina in 1942, Diament cultivated a love for journalism because his father would read stories to him in the local paper. “[The stories were] mostly about exotic countries, interesting places…” Diament said. “[Writing and journalism] seemed like something I’d really like to do, to have the opportunity to see interesting things, and to fight for causes I believe in.”

Diament went on to work as a journalist in Argentina during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Working under a military dictatorship there, he and other journalists were subject to various degrees of censorship and violence. At the time, Diament said that reporters in Argentina had to be careful with what they wrote because not only was the government watching the press, but a lot of reporters were killed by the military. Diament said this did not stop him from covering what he thought needed to be covered. “[I wrote] to denounce morally wrong and illegal acts of the government, and to fight for freedom and justice, and to defend those who I thought should be defended,” Diament said. Argentina was not the only place where Diament faced censorship. As a foreign correspondent, he was once jailed in Yugoslavia in the 1970s when he was assigned to cover a story on Josip Broz “Tito.” Tito was the president of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 1953 to 1980.

“These experiences give you a better understanding of the importance of your profession [as a journalist]. It is your responsibility to tell people what’s happening,” Diament said. In addition to his journalistic experience, Diament has written nine plays as well as a screenplay, Blind Date, a play Diament wrote in 2004, in order to be a part of his program at Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio. The Univer-

Mario Diament, SJMC professor

You can’t enter into [journalism] if you don’t have curiosity and passion for the truth. Without those things, you’ll never be a good writer or journalist.

sity offered Diament the option of allowing him to enter directly into their masters’ program based on his career experience, even though he did not have a bachelor of arts degree. Diament graduated from the program in 1995. Diament was asked by FIU staff to do research on the state of the Spanish language press in the U.S. He was asked to stay in order to develop SJMC’s Spanish Language masters program.

“An Evening of Jalaldin Rumi”
Faruk Celebi Efendi
world-wide head of the Mevlevi Sufi Order
Sufi chanting, whirling, discourse

Poetry reading: Peter Rogen
Oct. 9, 2007 7:30 p.m.
GC 140 (University Park)

Co-sponsors: Center for the Study of Spirituality (http://cas.fiu.edu/SpiritualityCenter) and Islamic Studies Program in conjunction with International Year of Rumi (UNESCO)
BOG decision best for all parties

From a gallon of milk to a gallon at the pump, everyday necessities become more and more expensive. Our education is no different. As The Beacon reported in its Oct. 1 issue, the Board of Governors unanimously voted to increase tuition by 5 percent effective Spring 2008.

The increase amounts to roughly $5.67 per credit hour, which equals $68 per semester for students taking a full load of courses. In order for the increase to become a law, it must first be approved by the Florida House of Representatives and Senate; and then survive a possible veto by Gov. Charlie Crist, who already exercised his veto power this summer on a similar measure. It is imperative that the legislature and governor both agree with the BOG’s decision to increase tuition in the upcoming spring. The lack of funding for public universities has meant increasing enrollment, recruiting faculty, staff and adding additional classes more difficult. Students have already felt the effects of a university system strapped for cash. The university-wide hiring freeze that was set in place, after the BOG told universities to prepare for a budget cut of 4 to 10 percent, has hurt students’ chances of graduating as professors are needed to teach certain classes cannot be hired.

Even if the university could hire faculty, who’s to say they would come?

Along with the hiring freeze, the budget cuts have also frozen salaries, making any current faculty ineligible for a raise. Not to mention the fact that this university is located in a state where property taxes are out of control, home insurance costs are astonishing, and the cost of living is among the highest in the country.

Even more troubling is this scenario: a qualified college--which protects those who are publicly funded university as a result of capped enrollment. State universities are already behind in terms of public funding—Florida is ranked in the bottom half of the country in terms of support they receive in public dollars.

The future of the public university system looks grim if this problem is not addressed soon.

This is where the BOG’s role becomes crucial. For the first time in its history, the BOG assumed the power given to it by Florida voters in 2003, preserved in its constitutional mission.

In the Florida Constitution, is said the BOG was created to achieve excellence through teaching students, advancing research and providing public service for the benefit of Florida’s citizens, their communities and economies, the people herby establish a system of governance for the state university system of Florida.

The vote to raise tuition comes amid a power struggle between the Legislature and the BOG over who should have the authority to set tuition. The dispute will be decided in Florida’s high courts.

It is common sense for the BOG to assume tuition setting responsibilities as they are an entity solely dedicated to the State’s universities. And only they can make a judgement in the best interest of students.

Tuition increase lightens wallets

NICOLLE GARBER
Opinion Editor

Many students at FIU pay out of their own pocket for tuition. Their parents have their own financial responsibilities and so they must provide for themselves. In that sense, the proposed 5 percent tuition increase is a cost that would greatly affect the residential student population.

Now 5 percent doesn’t seem like a lot, but let us say you are taking 15 credits and you are an in-state, undergraduate student. Each credit is approximately $113, so 5 percent of $113 is $5.67. Now multiply that by 15, and you get about $85. That is an extra $85 you would have to pay every semester—about two books for an English major and half a book for medical students.

The implementation of a 5 percent increase would bring in about $9 million to FIU. But that projection may not be correct if some students aren’t able to produce the extra $85. Students who quit their jobs to attend FIU and pay out of pocket will also face a greater difficulty. With no funds from a weekly job, they will have to take out more loans. For students who have little or no financial aid, have no weekly income from a job, and rely solely upon loans to attend school will definitely feel the strain of the increase. And students who have no job, no work-study, and no car to find a job will have to eat Ramen every day instead of every other day.

Sure, $85 may seem insignificant but let us expand upon what $85 can buy. With the $85 you can buy a $50 and $20 bus ticket to the Biscayne Bay Campus. It can buy a George Foreman Grill for students who cannot afford a meal plan. The $85 can buy two boxes of color print paper for a photography student. It can also help pay for a student’s study abroad trip to Japan. And lastly, $85 can buy gas for a week for a commuting student.

But those who will take the biggest financial hit are graduate students.

With their tuition totaling approximately $260 per credit, if they are receiving the worst end of the tax increase. Assuming they are taking 12 credits, they will have to pay out an extra $156.

Tara Lamp, a nursing student, states wide-eyed as she hears about the increase. Her bright smile fades as she contemplates her current financial disposition. “For the student whose every nickel, dime, and penny counts, it’s a huge deal. Not everyone is a Bright Futures scholar.”

If the tuition increase trend continues to climb in the near future, a proper education could soon become a luxury.

PENNIES PINCHING

Military presence highlights inconsistencies in school policy

JOSEPH MARHEE
Contributing Writer

As the U.S. government attests, “the greatest sacrifice a person can give is to that of their country,” but homosexuals and bisexuals are cruelly excluded from this ‘honor.’ According to the Armed Forces’ “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, members of the American homosexual community are both unfit to lead or to realize their full potential.

But “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy forces homosexuals and bisexuals to bury their true identities and it stipulates that sexual orientation is a marker of a person’s worth to society.

This policy is far reaching: it also applies to Reserve Officers’ Training Course (ROTC). ROTC provides 60 percent of the U.S. armed forces officers—they too cannot be homosexual or bisexual.

While the policy may not seem like a big deal, it is when a discovered homosexual who was a veteran of two years in Iraq is retrospectively denied his hard earned benefits. The explanation: discovered homosexuality is grounds for Dishonorable Discharge, meaning that benefits will not be granted.

That is a clear cut instance of discrimination.

However, the policy’s “Don’t Pursue, Don’t Harass” amendment, which protects those who are suspected of being homosexual from harassment, goes largely unrecognized. For example, in the case of Allen R. Schindler, Schindler was brutally murdered in what is now called a “blanket party” (the practice of covering an officer with a blanket and attacking them). The servicemen and several others who suspected that Schindler was gay left a “nearly-unrecognizable corpse,” a fate much worse than being denied military benefits. The policy itself is a huge step back for Americans who pride themselves of “living in the land of the free”. Further segregating the straight from the gay community.

The policy implies that sexual orientation is something of great importance and would suggest that someone not of the ‘correct’ orientation is of little use to the military, and of little value to society.

But federal legislature aside, by allowing ROTC and the Armed Forces to recruit on campus, FIU has taken a hypocritical stance towards homophobia and racism. Although in the process of hiring employees, the United Faculty of Florida agreed not to “discriminate against . . . any employee . . . based upon sexual orientation [and race].”

Therefore, by allowing ROTC and the Armed Forces on campus FIU only advances homophobia and discrimination, and indirectly endorses them both.

So what allows a military recruitment presence at FIU?

Money, the Supreme Court, in the case of Rumsfeld v. F.A.I.R., upheld the Solomon Amendment, stating that the federal government could deny funds to schools that do not allow military recruitment.

While it cannot be known for sure if that is FIU’s reasoning for continuing to allow indirect discrimination, the rule of the Solomon Amendment may play a big role in how FIU may be more of a victim than the perpetrator.

The ruling makes it difficult for the school to practice Equal Opportunities in all facets of decision making—like ROTC and other outside organizations that exist on campus.

And because schools are under the law’s heavy hand, they are left with few choices, other than to allow this to happen. It is a prime example of how far our rights and even our school’s motto can go; obviously, not very far.
SARAH RODRIGUEZ 
Staff Writer

Television, Web sites aim to disprove urban legends

Kidney thieves, alligators in sewers, evil spirits responding to chants of "Bloody Mary" – the term "urban legend" refers to a widely-circulating story that is usually untrue, or at least impossible to prove. Often, they begin with some small element of truth, but become increasingly exaggerated as they pass through grade sites.

SARAH RODRIGUEZ Staff Writer

ninja, the reliability of air bags and the idea that fire can be extinguished using nothing more than the human voice.

Sarah Nelson, a junior, said the show has been well-liked because it piques viewers' curiosity, and simultaneously offers useful information.

"I think it's pretty entertaining, and they have good facts," Nelson said. "The last one I saw was one with Coke, whether it can clean the [car] engine better than water. It worked about the same as water."

Nelson also points to a deeper reason for our fascination with shows that test our assumptions.

"Our society and culture is so based on tradition and these urban legends that we want to know if our basis is true or not," Nelson said. "We rely so much on media, and 'MythBusters' focuses on whether these movies are right or not. It's interesting to see whether the scriptwriters have done their homework."

Ultimately, urban legends might reflect society's love for mysterious, seemingly-impossible stories, but it remains debatable whether the veracity of each individual myth actually matters all that much.

Labrada questions whether the way snopes.com and "MythBusters" collects evidence to prove or disprove these stories, and then makes all such evidence available to the public.

"I think most of the urban legends can be proven false," Labrada said. "But who would take the time to do it?"

Son plans trip to find lost father

Dan Levinson is planning a trip. It's going to be a long trip, so he's been preparing for it all summer, even teaching himself a foreign language during the hour-long commutes to his current school, St. John's University in New York.

Dan, 22 years old and originally from Broward, is a good student and an ambitious guy.

He graduated from William & Mary's in 2006 and is pursuing a degree in international law.

But there are days when Dan can't help feeling bored in class.

"I think urban legends are so popular because people love being scared," Labrada said. "But who would want to out to personally test them, no matter how untrue, or at least impossible to prove. Often, they begin with some small element of truth, but become increasingly exaggerated as they get passed through grapevine.

Some are merely amusing, and could be fun to pass on to others even if one did not truly believe them. Others appeal to their audience because of shock value, mystery and horror.

Freshman Henry Labrada thinks that urban legends appeal to the public's curiosity and sense of adventure.

"I think urban legends are so popular because people love being scared," Labrada said. "They enjoy putting themselves in other people's shoes and getting that adrenaline."

The use of E-mail and the Internet has made it much easier to circulate information quickly and globally, allowing urban legends to snowball and spread. The Internet, however, has also served to debunk a lot of these misconceptions, making web sites that expose fact and fiction almost as popular as the myths themselves.

One such web site is www.snopes.com, named after a family of characters in the works of American author William Faulkner. Here, visitors can browse through dozens of categories of urban legends, hoaxes and general misconceptions for crimes, politics and radio and television.

Operated by Barbara and David Mikkel son, the web site rates hundreds of stories with green, yellow, red or white dots that measure validity. Green is used to rate ideas that have either been proven by evidence or that were once based on real events while yellow refers to claims with insufficient evidence. Red is used for stories determined too improbable, stories that would have been all over the news if they had actually occurred.

Freshman Katherine Benzaken believes that, in spite of the evidence snopes.com collects, the site's decisions should be questioned.

"I have heard of snopes.com and I think it's pretty interesting, but I wouldn't trust everything it says," Benzaken said.

The Mikkelsons are quick to point out that, although they have bibliographies to support their verdicts, no one should take them as the final authority.

Another popular medium for testing and debunking urban myths is the show "MythBusters," appearing on the Discovery Channel.

In each episode, Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman choose three common beliefs or themes. According to Discovery.com, instead of merely looking for information that would prove the myths, Savage and Hyneman set out to personally test them, no matter how dangerous doing so can become.

Past episodes have been centered on
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Despite tragedy, family stays hopeful

MEANING, page 6

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Diving In

Bruce Springsteen - Magic

Album shows rock can still deliver a profound message

EveR Cruz
Staff Writer

With Magic, Bruce Springsteen’s first album in five years with the E Street Band, he has created one of the most honest and important records in the last few years.

The album opens with the thunderous, riff-heavy, “Radio Nowhere,” in which Springsteen bluntly takes aim at the current and sad state of music invading the airwaves. In the chorus, he growls, “This is radio nowhere is there anybody alive out there?!”

Magic is more aggressive than his previous release, the Sept. 11 mournful The Rising. On “Living In The Future,” Springsteen sings about the dark times ahead: he addresses issues such as lovers being separated by war as well as the global warming issue.

Interestingly enough, the track is as upbeat as one of the band’s 80’s tracks, driven by an infectious saxophone and pounding drums. He’s worried about the future but nonetheless, he still has hope that things can turn around for the better.

“Heavenly Sword” is a sad track about a family member lost at war and the effects it has on family. Then, “I’ll Work For Your Love,” Springsteen sings about trying hard to become a citizen for God.

The title track beautifully employs acoustic guitar, mandolin and a synth keyboard for a song that mixes lyrics about illusion and death.

The violin, driving drums and desperate-sounding vocals scream for attention as Springsteen sings, “Whose blood will spill, whose heart will break ... Who’ll be the last to die, for a mistake.”

For those familiar with Springsteen’s work, the album is a combination of 70s Springsteen, in the style of Born To Run and Born In The USA. Just like those classic albums, this release uses the “wall-of-sound” approach, in which layers of instruments are used in songs, instruments that range from the war in Iraq, to decisions the government makes and how it affects the people.

Ultimately, this is a solid album that speaks about the harsh realities of today – songs that are relevant for today’s generation. For those who still believe in rock ‘n’ roll and think about what’s going on in the world, this album is for you.

GAME

Heavenly Sword

Epic full of rich details

Luis Garcia
Staff Writer

Heavenly Sword has been watched very closely by many Sony PlayStation 3 owners since the system’s launch. Sony and developer Ninja Theory’s tale of revenge is finally here to captivate thrill-seekers with its martial arts finesse and fury.

The game is told through a series of flashbacks that chronicle the main character Nariko’s path of vengeance against King Bohan after her people were ravaged and enslaved in his quest to claim the Heavenly Sword for power.

Nariko’s clan has long guarded the sword. Nariko, against the clan leader and her father’s wishes, takes up the sword to save her clan, even at the cost of her own life.

Heavenly Sword’s control is easy to pick up and play from the beginning.

Two attack buttons and quick access to Nariko’s different fighting styles by holding the L1 and R1 buttons allow for easy combinations and quick adapting for fighting enemies.

Also at Nariko’s disposal are super styles that instantly devastate one or multiple opponents. Defensive maneuvers such as evade rolling, controlling through the left analog stick and countering oncoming attacks with a well-timed press of the Triangle button are simple to execute.

At some points in the game, Heavenly Sword will change focus to Kai, a cross-bow wielding young orphan aiding Nariko in her quest with her skills. In these portions, use of the motion-sensing ‘ Sixaxis ’ controls and the projective view of the camera allow players to give the appropriate after touch to their aim for added precision. Nariko also has this skill when throwing objects in the environment, including prone-bodies.

Although the game is exhilarating and will keep players interested with its characters, six chapters leave it very short-lived. While challenging, determined players can finish the game within six or seven hours, perhaps less.

There is a nice wealth of content to discover, such as added combat moves, concept art, interviews with developers and the extra difficult hell mode.

Heavenly Sword is a grand showcase of the PS3’s power. Much detail went into crafting the characters that inhabit the cinematic influenced landscape.

Whether its facial expressions, waterfalls or Nariko’s flowing hair, the game spares no expense in visual presentation.

Much of the beauty of it is watching the action as Nariko dispatches foes after foes with grace, fluidity and pain.

The sounds and music of the game contribute to the visual flair. Adding further to the experience is superb scripting of the story and acting that bring the characters to life. Andy Serkis (Gollum of the Lord of the Rings trilogy) in the role of King Bohan, in particular, is a sight to behold.

Heavenly Sword is meant to be savored for every moment and shows that short stories can captivate as much as an expansive epic.

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Quality in Everything We Do.
Volleyball continues winning ways in dominating fashion

总是找些事情，他们的团队可以改进，这就是我一直在做的事情。”Tomic说。“看着我们赢得胜利，我觉得这是美好的，这是我们要坚持的。我们需要在每场比赛中都做好准备，并且做到最好。我认为我们已经在好的地方了，但是我们还需要进步。”

对于Tomic来说，第50场胜利是在今年的比赛中取得的。她还被选为年度最佳球员，并且继续带领球队前进。

Midway through season, team still looking for offense

For an offense to gel together, the whole offense needs to understand each other. Besides Guerra and Coleman, there has not been another team member who has exhibited consistent team chemistry.

Guerra is the best ball handler on the team and he breaks down defenses better than any one. However, teams have taken note of this and have begun to double-team him. When he is double-teamed, other players should help him and make themselves available to receive the ball. Instead, they have left him out to dry too many times this season.

Scoring chances for the men’s club have not been excessive, but there have been enough to score more than the four total goals scored this year, the fifth was an own goal by the University of Connecticut.

Scoring chances for the men’s club have been few, but there have been enough to score more than the four total goals scored this year, the fifth was an own goal by the University of Connecticut.

Two glaring, constant mistakes have contributed to the Golden Panthers’ offense: hesitation and poor decision-making.

The majority of offensive plays near the penalty box involve a player dribbling towards the goal only to stop briefly, looking for other teammates rather than taking the initiative and shooting. That brief pause allows the lagging defenders to catch up and block off the Golden Panther attack.

The same moments of hesitation also allow the goalie to charge the offensive player and grab the ball.

There’s a time to shoot long range and short range. The Golden Panthers have yet to figure out when is the right time to shoot either.

Ill-advised shots from more than 30 yards out have not produced one goal thus far this season. But they have led to soccer balls landing near the Pharmed Arena or the baseball stadium.

Conversely, there have been several plays in which a player is inside the penalty box and refuses to shoot in time. The Golden Panthers either pull the trigger too soon or never take the pin off the grenade.

Nine games mark the mid-way point of the regular season. Considering they have not won, the regular season is probably as far as they’ll go 2007. The change in head coaches from Karl Kremser to Eketebi has been rough so far.

The mild-mannered Eketebi does not show much emotion on the field, but there is no way he could be happy with his team’s offense and overall record.

Only one more question can be asked about the men’s soccer team: “When does next season start?”

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**FALLING BEHIND**

**CONDITIONING, chemistry to blame for men’s soccer slow start**

Renaldo Smith

Junior forward Levi Coleman, sophomore forward Christian Caporaletti and sophomore midfielder Juan Guerra have all been smothered and bullied by defenders.

"Where’s the beef?" asked Florida Atlantic Oct. 2 at Pharmed Arena.

Opposing defenders had no trouble tackling and stripping the ball from the slow Golden Panther midfielders and forwards.

"I am happy and I am humbled," Tomic said. "I don’t do my job to break records or to put my name in the record books. I am just trying to coach these kids and make a difference and I think that when you do things the right way, the results will come."

"The best offensive game of the season so far was against Illinois-Chicago in which midfielder Juan Guerra scored two goals with the help of forward Levi Coleman."

"For a two-game stretch, Guerra and Coleman showed signs of life for the Golden Panthers’ offense, but Coleman’s playing time was cut down significantly because of an injury he sustained against Marshall."

"Guerra was overwhelmed in that game by numerous defenders."