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The Beacon, November 5, 2007

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**SAFE AND SOUND**

**FIU learns from Virginia Tech**

**EQUAL PRICE**

**But without equal portions**

**AT THE BAY**

**OPINION**

**Duck Hunt**

**FIU home to different animals**

**SEASON CONCLUDES**

**Women’s soccer looks ahead**

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

**SGC-UP moves forward with Athletics proposal**

Proposed partnership to cost students $90K in activities fees

**Kassandra Pool**

**Staff Writer**

The FIU Sigma chapter of the Society of Women Engineers, or SWE, was founded in 1954 at the University Park campus. The chapter will also serve as a fund raiser for the Robbie Page Memorial.

Kassandra Pool Staff Writer

The FIU chapter of the Sigma Sigma Sorority, Mary Hastings Holloway Page, was founded in 1945. The Robbie Page Memorial was adopted by the fourth national president of Sigma Sigma Sigma, Mary Hastings Holloway Page. Motivated to aid the research projects for polio, she established the memorial after the death of her son Robbie, who died of the disease. After the discovery of the Salk vaccine, which helps prevent children from getting polio, the philanthropy now focuses on recreational therapy for children.

Ocasio believes that helping children through recreational therapy is one of the best ways to do it. "It’s the best medicine because medicine always has a side effect and laughter only makes you and others happy," Ocasio said.

The charity event will be a backwards beauty pageant where men will be given the opportunity to dress as women, as famous Tri-Sigma members of the past, and show their skill on the catwalk. According to Ocasio, the idea came from their advisor who shared this concept with the chapter officers since she knew about another Tri-Sigma chapter that has successfully done the event before.

The highlight of the event will be the contestants dressing up in their costume.

"From Care Bears to Carrie Underwood, this is a Tri-Sigma sister who is one of the ideas contestants can consider," said Shihana César, Current President of Sigma Sigma Sigma.

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**Student receives honorary degree**

FIU graduate Kristina Marie Panagos died in her Pembroke Pines home Oct. 25 after struggling with a brain tumor since the age of 10.

Panagos, 23, had completed her fourth year at FIU in 2005, when she had to leave due to her condition, but was missing credits and did not meet the requirements for an honorary degree.

“I was told she could only get it if she passed away. That was not going to make a difference to her or to me,” said her mother, Lourdes Panagos.

However, Panagos was determined to receive her degree before dying.

Following petitions from two faculty members, the Board of Trustees and the Faculty Senate finally voted to change the criterion for honorary degrees to allow terminally ill students like Panagos receive diplomas.

A graduation ceremony was held Aug. 18, where Panagos received a Bachelor’s of Science diploma in biology.

“It meant a lot to her, now she is leaving a legacy at FIU because other students like her will be able to receive a degree,” Lourdes Panagos said.

Panagos’ brain tumor was first diagnosed when she was 10, but her symptoms ameliorated after an operation and did not return until 2005.

Panagos had completed her fourth year and had passed all the courses that she studied. However, her family tried different treatments and traveled to New York last summer after hearing that Panagoses's condition would only live six more weeks; she lived three more months.

“She was a trooper, she was never the person who would say ‘why me,’” said her sister, Danielle Panagos, 22.

Despite her condition, Panagos got to live her dream last December: to visit Australia.

“I asked: ‘if you could go anywhere in the world, where do you go?’ So I cashed in my retirement and said: ‘I’m going to go her dream,’” Lourdes Panagos said.

Panagos traveled with her sister and mother to Australia and visited the Great Barrier Reef, Blue Mountains and Steve Irwin’s zoo.

“She was very passionate about animals,” Lourdes Panagos said. “She didn’t like going to pet shops because she felt it was her obligation to bring them home.”

Besides animals, Panagos was also a fan of the Marlins, and would go to their games with her friends Patty Tapanes.

When her condition confined her to her home, her friends used to visit her to watch movies together.

“She knew she was going to die but she really just wanted to enjoy life, even though she was the one with the condition she made sure everyone around her was comfortable,” Ledward said.

Panagos was cremated and her ashes will remain with the Panagos family.

Besides her sister and mother, Panagos is survived by her older brother, Thomas, 25, her father Thomas Panagos and a grandmother.

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**CORRECTIONS**

In the Oct. 29, 2007 issue, in the article titled “Opposing Parties debate on Education,” Chris Cabral was misquoted and Chris Khawand’s name was spelled incorrectly. In the same article the Democratic Party was incorrectly attributed with the belief that all Democrats debated on Education,” Chris Cabral was misquoted and Chris Khawand’s name was spelled incorrectly. In the same article, the Democratic Party was incorrectly attributed with the belief that all Democrats debated on Education, with the Faculty Senate and the students. Following petitions from two faculty members, the Board of Trustees and the Faculty Senate finally voted to change the criterion for honorary degrees to allow terminally ill students like Panagos receive diplomas.

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**THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS**

**MONDAY • NOVEMBER 5**

- Campus Bible Fellowship: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., GC 314 (UP)
- Rage Week: Wear gold & blue all week
- Rage Week: Spirit Fashion Show: 12 p.m., GC Pit (UP)
- Panther Rage General Meeting: 4 p.m., GC 140 (UP)

**TUESDAY • NOVEMBER 6**

- FIU Democrats vs. Republicans Debate: 10 - 11:30 a.m., GC Pit (UP)
- Rage week- Pep Rally: 12 p.m., GC Pit (UP)
- SOC General Meeting: 5:30 p.m., GC 150 (UP)
- Campus Bible Fellowship: 7:30 - 9 p.m., GC 343 (UP)

**WEDNESDAY • NOVEMBER 7**

- Catholic Student Union - Holy Mass: 12 - 1 p.m., GC 150 (UP)
- Catholic Student Faith Jam Lunche: 1 - 3 p.m., GC 2215 (UP)
- Rage Week - Soccer Shoot Out: 5 p.m., Housing Quad (UP)
- Women Studies Student Association Meeting: 7 p.m., DM 192 (UP)

**THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 8**

- Leaders of Tomorrow General Meeting: 3 p.m., GC 241 (UP)
- Anything Goes Anime: 8 p.m. - 12 a.m., Chemistry and Physics 145 (UP)
- Choral Concert: 8 p.m., Wertheim Performing Arts Center (UP)
- Sigma Backwards Pageant: 7 - 9 p.m., GC Middle Ballrooms (UP)

**FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 9**

- STARS, Security First: 1 - 1:50 p.m., GC 216 (UP)
- Rage Week- FIU Bonfire: 7 p.m., Greek Housing (UP)
- Homecoming Step Show: 7 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)
- SPC Movie - I now Pronounce you Chuck and Larry: 7 & 10 p.m., GC 140 (UP)

- Compiled by Kasandra Poul 

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**WISH GRANTED:**

Above: Kristina Panagos (center) receives her honorary degree on Aug. 18, 2007 from President of Student Affairs Rosa Jones (right), and Provost Ronald Berkman (left). Left: Panagos sits with her father (right) after the ceremony.
Society for Women Engineers, page 1

American Airlines is providing the organization with one roundtrip ticket to anywhere in the United States or the Caribbean to the winner of the pageant. “They hope the winner is someone who is creative, just having fun and who can represent our organization,” Ocasio said.

Andrea Malave, philanthropy chair of Sigma Sigma is the overall director for the Sigma Backwards Pageant. “We hope to raise at least $2,000 for our philanthropy and we plan on receiving coloring books as well as donations to take to North Carolina for our Alternative Break Site trip happening in the Spring of 2008,” Colegial said.

Colegial said that the importance of raising money for the philanthropy is for the sisters to go to North Carolina to volunteer at the Chapel Hill Hospital where they will be working in the play therapy room with the children.

The event will take place this Thursday at 7 p.m. in the middle ballroom of the Graham Center. Tickets are on sale for $5 for early entrance and $7 at the door.

For more information, e-mail andrea.malave@fiu.edu. Proceeds will go to the Robbie Page Memorial philanthropy.
Panel discusses improvements to campus safety

By the first of [2008], we hope to have 700 new phones implemented in classrooms throughout the University and there is a plan to have phones installed in all classrooms.
Editorial

SGC-UP proposal a costly abuse of power

This is the first of a two-part series of editorials on the proposed partnership between SGC-UP and Athletics. Part two will run on Nov. 8.

According to SGC-UP’s logic, this clause alone would benefit 78,000 students as it is the total capacity of all of these facilities multiplied by the number of times they are used. For example: the Pharmed Arena seats 5,000 people. Since we, the students, would have the ‘privilege’ of using our own arena three times a year for events, 15,000 students would supposedly benefit from this proposal.

This is an example of ‘creative accounting’ at its worst. Just because a venue has the capacity to hold thousands of students it does not mean that thousands will actually attend. In fact, to say that 78,000 students would benefit is laughable. That’s more than twice as many people as there are actually attending this University.

And as the SGC-ABC astutely pointed out, students are already paying for the construction of a football stadium – and athletics in general. The athletic fee was already raised last year to support construction of the new stadium. SGA is funded by the Activities and Services fee, which is a fee paid by students in addition to the Athletic fee.

Why should students have to pay again to use these facilities? How much more money does Athletics need?

Moreover, it appears that the use of the skybox will be restricted primarily to members of SGA.

According to their own proposal, the number one reason they are pushing for this ‘partnership’ with Athletics is that it will put them “at the forefront of other university SGA’s.”

They go on to say that it would “increase the prestige of the FIU SGA.” What the SGC-UP executive board fails to realize is that the only way to put themselves at the forefront of university SGA’s is to do a good job serving the students – all of them, not just those they can fit in a box.

VERONICA TRUEBA
Contributing Writer

Cost for take-out food too much for too little

At The Fresh Food Company there are two set food prices: $6.49 for breakfast and $8 for lunch and dinner; including takeout. While these prices are reasonable considering the quality of food and the unlimited supply of the buffet, they are overrated when it comes to choosing takeout, an option excluded from the ‘all-you-can-eat’ catchphrase.

Aramark, the company in charge of Panther Dining Services, has been working with FIU since 1995, and in 2005 renewed its partnership with a 10 year contract.

Despite the number of years Aramark has been working with FIU and the approximately 2,300 daily costumers it gets, Aramark Resident District Manager Jonathan Garcia believes Aramark does not profit at FIU.

“Aramark doesn’t make a penny, it actually loses money in FIU.”

The reason for this is that established commissions for FIU are actually greater than the overall revenue.

According to Garcia the contract Aramark has with FIU consists of a compromise that FIU is going to make a certain amount of money at all times.

Therefore, no matter what the final profit is, Aramark is obliged to give the University an already established income.

This means that if revenues are not high enough, “all money goes to FIU,” Garcia said.

Aramark’s losses were clearly delineated in one of the Financial Stabilty charts of Panther Dining provided by Garcia.

The chart displays the amount of money lost on a yearly basis by the company. Since the year 2002 to present, the total amount of money Aramark has lost sums up to approximately $2.96 million.

It is surprising how even after Aramark has spent great amounts of money without getting any direct gain, the company still plans to work with FIU far into the future.

The hope of investors is that as time goes by, ‘they’ll get closer to a break-even point and then to the production of significant earnings.’

But even if Aramark gets nothing, some students feel that food in The Fresh Food Company is still relatively expensive.

“I live at the apartments now and I haven’t gone once to The Fresh Food Company because I cannot afford to pay $8 for lunch,” said sophomore Tania Santiago.

“That’s $40 per week. That’s a lot for an international student.”

Then again, not all students feel this way. Freshman Kevin Garcia is a regular customer of The Fresh Food Company and does feel that he’s getting his money worth when eating at this place.

“I eat at the buffet everyday and there isn’t a student who can’t stay and refill their plates as many times as they wish but if they aren’t able to do that [with takeout], then there should definitely be a more reasonable price.”

BUFFET TO GO

When you order this service at The Fresh Food Company you can get as much food as you can fit into a medium size takeout container and a choice of a drink.

This sounds fair considering that you’re able to get a good portion of food and an overall decent lunch. But the problem is that you’re paying the price of a buffet and since you’re not there to take full advantage of the variety of food and or refills, then the extra money you’re paying goes completely to waste.

Some students interviewed actually said that if the price for takeout was to be lower, like $5 for $6 for lunch, they would consider ordering takeout on a regular basis, as opposed to buying at cheaper and more affordable places.

When asked about the idea that some students believed the price for takeout should be lower, Jonathan Garcia replied, “It’s absurd.”

He disagrees and argues that the takeout service allows you to get a respectable portion of a main course plus a drink and perhaps a choice of fruit, which in his mind, sums up perfectly to a $7 to $8 worth of lunch.

Some students seem to think otherwise.

“I do think it is unfair that people who can’t stay and refill their plates have to pay the same prices,” said sophomore Laura Flores.

The fact that the buffet is priced the way it is is backed up by the fact that people can serve themselves as many times as they wish but if they aren’t able to do that [with takeout], then there should definitely be a more reasonable price.”
It’s a sunny Wednesday morning and the Lakeview Hall ducks are feasting on a breakfast of sogggy ice cream cones and pizza crusts. A group of fuzzy yellow ducklings waddle after their mother and another white-feathered duck bathes in a newly formed puddle near the sidewalk.

According to Tovar, “We all have a passion for learning about nutrition. We like to share that with others in the community and teach others about nutrition.”

The ducks and other animals can be seen throughout the University Park campus having claimed their territory within FIU, but how many animals does the campus really host?

Philip Stoddard, a biological studies professor who specializes in animal research, is very familiar with the wildlife at FIU. “We have roughly 130 native bird species on campus, about six species of turtle, two species of native frogs, lists of fish and insects and a few mammals—gray fox, raccoon, opossum,” Stoddard said. “Native snakes and lizards have not fared so well. The native vegetation helps all wildlife. The ponds need more of it.”

In Lake North behind the Green Library and in the “kissing pond” south of the Ryder Business building is where turtles reside. Arguably the greatest tourist attraction on FIU, curious students can be seen loitering over the bridge by the business building during the day, gazing at dozens of turtles sun-bathing and floating to the surface.

Veronica Fernandez-Barquin, a freshman majoring in marine biology, finds the turtles “adorable.” “I am actually trying to kidnap one to take home,” she said.

As the birds, the most common species seen around campus are the Muscovy ducks. Red skin around the eyes and bill distinguish them from other species. They have taken over the lakes near the Lakeview residence halls, most likely because students tend to feed them. This poses a problem as their numbers are growing rapidly—so far plus a fresh batch of ducklings—and they can produce approximately one to three a pound of manure a day.

The Great Blue Heron, a familiar bird in South Florida, can also be seen strolling through the campus ponds and lakes. Their varying blue feathers, elongated neck and beak make them a perfect creature to stalk fish and invertebrates.

Fernandez-Barquin enjoys watching the Great Blue Heron as it increases the natural beauty of the preserve. “If you come early in the morning, you get to see the Blue Heron hunt for 10 minutes or so— it’s quite graceful.”

A less visible wildlife haven hidden within the campus is the South Florida Ecosystem Preserve, home to 203 species frequently seen by students. Located next to the FIU Panhellenic Stadium, the preserve is home to several species of fish that are nurtured by students and faculty for more than 30 years.

Exotic and indigenous species share the preserve, and with its 45 species of butterflies recorded, the preserve rivals Butterfly World—but not the turtles of Lake North and the “kissing pond.”

For more information on the reserve, visit http://www.fiu.edu/envstud/preserve.

Club emphasizes nutrition, starts mentorship program

ELSA REINOSO
Staff Writer

Students looking to further their knowledge of health can turn to the Student Dietetic Association, a branch of the American Dietetic Association that welcomes students majoring in all fields of study.

According to SDA President Gisela Tovar, members are able to work in the community and teach others about nutrition.

“We all have a passion for nutrition and we like to share that with others in the community,” Tovar said.

According to Tovar, the SDA hosts and participates in health fairs at FIU, elementary schools and churches in the community and has won awards for their community service. The organization has also done a diabetes dinner as well as a diabetes walk to raise money for research about the disease.

“We won the Outstanding Service Award by [FIU’s Student Organizations Council] last year, making us the first non-community service based club to receive the award,” Tovar said. “We have made [our department] very proud of us.”

Deana Lawrence, SDA vice president, became a member of the organization because she is not from Miami and needed to get more connected to the students and faculty in the program, the community and her chosen profession.

According to Lawrence, SDA meetings are confronting because they are a way to unwind, learn from and relate with others facing the same issues—a change of pace from the hectic schedules of college life.

“I think that more people should slow down and take advantage of its physical, psychological and spiritual therapeutic effects,” Lawrence said.

Tovar added that the association represents the future in health and that it is essential to teach others about learning how to make the proper food choices. She also said that SDA works with several schools with donation drives.

“Last year, we hosted [donation drive] of clothing and toiletries for Camillus House and this year we will be hosting a canned food drive for other local homeless shelters,” Tovar said.

Federica Pierre, a transfer student from Miami-Dade College studying to become a dietician, said that she is looking forward to become a member.

“I am very excited that I will link with people that share [interests] with me,” Pierre said.

Pierre said that one of her friends is already a member and seeing her participating in the club’s events motivated her to attend the next meeting.

“My friend is always involved in all the activities,” she said. “I want to participate in the elementary school program that SDA has.”

SDA is currently starting a mentorship program with the Miami Dietetic Association, where students will be able to sign up and be paired with a dietician from MDA as a mentor to learn more about the fields of dietetics and nutrition.

“I truly believe that healthy food can have a positive influence on bringing people together,” Lawrence said.
Middle Eastern cuisine catches attention of students

Almazar, across the street from University Park’s 16th street entrance, has brought a taste of Greek and Middle Eastern cuisine close to campus. The restaurant’s bright colors are inviting: the chairs are made out of wood; the tables are red, orange and yellow and the walls have shelves filled with Middle Eastern canned products sold to the public but not used in the restaurant’s cooking.

Iyad Georges, of Syrian nationality and one of the owners of the restaurant, explains how he has brought to the community a bit of his own culture.

“We don’t use canned food; everything is fresh and olive oil is present in all our dishes,” Georges said.

The restaurant has been open for a year and has gained the recognition of The Miami Herald and The New Times for the best Baklava – a rich Middle Eastern cake made of thin layers of flaky pastry filled with nuts and honey and considered the star of the Almazar menu.

“We hope next year we will win the prize for the best food,” Georges said.

Aside from Baklava, Almazar’s menu has fried kibbeh, a dish of minced meat with bulgur and spices with many variants, and falafels, a fried ball or patty made from spiced fava beans and chickpeas, served with tahini sauce.

The shawarma, a Middle Eastern sandwich usually composed of shaved lamb, goat or chicken, is also part of the menu.

The restaurant, operated by two Syrian brothers, represents a break from the common fast food restaurants nearby – the ingredients are all natural.

“People love it here – it’s a clean place where they all feel comfortable and move the tables and chairs around to accommodate all their friends,” Georges said.

Senior Angel Wong remembers the first time he visited Almazar.

“I was looking for something different to eat; I had never tried Middle Eastern food,” Wong said.

“I walked in not being too sure of whether I would like the food or not. Now I eat here at least once a week.”

The food isn’t, however, the only thing that keeps customers coming back. The price of each entree is below $10.

“This place is always neat and the food is always served really fast. I must say the price isn’t bad either.” Wong said.

The restaurant, open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Saturday, has become the favorite place for some students to review for exams while enjoying the taste of Greek and Middle Eastern food.

“I come here all the time,” said Claudia Sanchez, FIU student. “I love all the dishes but my favorite is the beef kabbab. I always order the same thing. The first time I came alone and then I made my boyfriend come with me. Now we come every week, even when we have to study.”

Almazar is not a chain; it is the only restaurant the brothers own.

Situated strategically in front of a multiethnic University and close to several fast food restaurants, Almazar has made students such as Wong, move away from the pre-cooked, frozen food that many low-price menu chains offer.

“Sometimes I wish there was another one of [these restaurants] close to my house,” Wong said. “I have sometimes traveled an hour from Homestead just to bring my girlfriend or my friends to taste their food. Maybe I should sometime bring my parents, too.”
If you are **Too Tired** to go **To Work** or **School**, then this message is for you!

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Upcoming music tours promise variety

LEONICIO ALVAREZ
Copy Chief

Despite changes in how people get their music and how artists make their money, touring remains a very smart idea. Be it a couple of shows to promote an album or a full-throttle world tour, it is obvious that mass music fans are still in the crowd. Throughout the tour, having the chance to see artists is a must for many.

According to industry trade magazine Pollstar, 2006 showed a 16 percent increase in ticket sales from 2005. Ticket revenue was at a whopping $5.7 billion in the U.S. with $2.7 billion in Europe. South Florida is home to various venues that house some great shows in the time leading up to Thanksgiving. A wide variety of live acts are set to make stops in your neighborhood, showing that unlike Spec’s Music, touring is still no where near being a thing from the past.

JENNIFER LOPEZ & MARC ANTHONY

A visibly pregnant Jennifer Lopez and her husband Marc Anthony take the stage together in a new approach for celebrity couples. The duo appears together at the end of the show for two ballads just after each performer sets a piece of their most popular songs. Jennifer will have with him a live salsa/merengue band, Lopez, performing or not, still keeps her dance roots alive with technical choreography throughout.

Nov. 7, American Airlines Arena, 8 p.m., $45

TEGAN AND SARA

MTV’s recent marketing strategy to show clips of the acoustic twins, Tegan and Sara talking and sharing their sisterly bond during commercials has put the girls on the map. If you miss VH-1’s “Storytellers,” then this is not a show to be missed. Along with performing some old songs, the duo will engage you with comedic childhood stories and banter that will make you feel like a close cousin.

Nov. 13, Culture Room, 7:30 p.m., $20

DEBORAH HARRY

In the midst of working on the musical “The Waterboys,” Debbie Harry, lead vocalist of Blondie will make its debut for both the T.V. and online. Kelly Clarkson is taking the show to smaller venues this time around to ensure her fans get their tickets. During the Breakaway Tour, Clarkson will revitalize her old hits and leave the American Idol sing-alongs for the T.V.

Nov. 29, Mizner Park Amphitheatre, 7:30 p.m., $43

KELLY CLARKSON

Kelly Clarkson is taking her show to smaller venues this time around to ensure she sells her tickets. Despite the letdown in graphics, the musical score, visuals, and a revamped interface, the game by featuring 51 original songs into the game; players can play along play along to the original versions of Metallica’s “One” or Guns N’ Roses’ “Welcome to the Jungle.” Never again will you have to tear your ears out to tolerate covers.

What’s changed in terms of game play mechanics is the HD hard rock music game system, which is essential to playing the game. It seems the timing on performing the technique has been loosened, making it even easier to perform. The interface has also been revamped to see the notes more clearly. Multiplayer has been reduced slightly with the additions of Battle Mode, Online Mode and Co-op Career Mode.

The Legend of Zelda: The Phantom Hourglass

Link’s newest quest lacks visual appeal

Every once in a while, legends are born in the world of video games. Earlier this month, The Legend of Zelda series gave birth to one of its greatest productions ever: The Phantom Hourglass.

Unlike many games available for the Nintendo DS, PH makes full use of every feature the game system has to offer, something no other DS game can boast about doing.

Despite the embarrassment of new toys the system brings, you must close the DS lid to continue the game. Longtime fans of the series might find it difficult to adapt to the DS style of control. For the first time ever, all actions are conducted through the use of the DS stylus. Unlike the normal, tight control that previous games had in previous games, the DS stylus makes it very easy to master so, after a few hours of playing, you will be able to control the main character much easier.

Once you do master the game controls, find a friend or log onto Nintendo’s WiFi Internet and play against other players in one of the most addictive multiplayer games ever.

The game tries mimicking the cell shading animation style of the Gamecube game but fails. The game itself does not look bad, but the Zelda games have been put at a higher standard than other Nintendo games. In this very rare case, PH did not meet the expectations set by its predecessors. Despite the letdown in visuals, the musical score for the game is riddled with references to past games and also man- ufactures to move the excellent, though slightly unoriginal “out to save the princess” storyline along. It’s been the main plot of almost every Zelda game, but it’s also become part of the series charm.

Overall, The Phantom Hourglass is a must for any Zelda fan. It would be nice to say it’s the greatest of all the Zelda hand-held games but, due to disappointing graphics, it simply can’t own that title. Currently, though, it is the best DS game available.

Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock

Almost a year has passed since Guitar Hero II was released on the PlayStation 2 and the Xbox 360 version was released months later with some extras. Now, it is time to strap on your five button plastic guitars once again with a fresh batch of new songs: Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock will have you strumming like there’s no tomorrow.

However, developer Neversoft has done a fantastic job in obtaining the master tracks for the game by featuring 51 original songs into the game; players can play along play along to the original versions of Metallica’s “One” or Guns N’ Roses’ “Welcome to the Jungle.” Never again will you have to tear your ears out to tolerate covers.

What’s changed in terms of game play mechanics is the HD hard rock music game system, which is essential to playing the game. It seems the timing on performing the technique has been loosened, making it even easier to perform. The interface has also been revamped to see the notes more clearly. Multiplayer has been reduced slightly with the additions of Battle Mode, Online Mode and Co-op Career Mode.

Mode: Depending on the system, players can connect online against players from across the nation and post their high scores through the official Guitar Hero website. Battle Mode is where two players compete in the same song and each player has to force the other player to lose by using a variety of powerups obtained while playing through a song; this mode will appear as you play through Career mode, you’ll be battling against famous guitarists such as Slash and Tom Morello.

With all the new songs and features, the difficulty has been taken to the next level. On harder settings, the songs can go from fun (Rolling Stone’s “Paint It Black”) to brutal (“Bravado’s Fire and Flames”).

For those who can’t decide on which version to buy – since the game is released on PlayStation 2 & Xbox, Nintendo Wii – Xbox 360 and PC/Mac— players need not worry because all versions have the same songs. All console versions will come with the new wireless guitars modeled after the Gibson Les Paul, while PlayStation 2 owners will have the Kramer Pacer.

Despite the new toys, you can always use your guitars from older versions of the game to rock, seeing as how Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock makes its debut for both PlayStation 3 and the Wii with this game.

Ultimately, Neversoft’s attempt in continuing the Guitar Hero series is actually a successful one. With all of the new toys, multiplayer modes, you can keep on playing for days until the next big music game hits the stores.
Bonds to deny Hall of Fame induction if ball has asterisk

MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP Wire

Barry Bonds would boycott Cooperstown if the Hall of Fame displays his record-breaking home run ball with an asterisk. That includes skipping his potential induction ceremony.

"I won't go. I won't be part of it," Bonds said in an interview with MSNBC that aired Thursday night. "You can call me, but I won't be there." The ball Bonds hit for home run No. 756 this season as he neared Hank Aaron's career home run mark.

Bonds has called Ecko "an idiot." "I don't think you can put an asterisk in the game of baseball, and I don't think that the Hall of Fame can accept an asterisk," Bonds said.

"You cannot give people the freedom, the right to alter history. You can't do it. There's no such thing as an asterisk in baseball." Hall of Fame vice president Jeff Idelson declined to comment Thursday night.

Hall president Dale Petroskey has said the museum endorses the viewpoint that Bonds used illegal substances. He said the museum would be "delighted" to have the ball. "It's a historic piece of baseball history," Petroskey said in September.

So, if the Hall goes through with the asterisk display? "I will never be in the Hall of Fame. Never," Bonds said. "Barry Bonds will not be there. That's my emotions now. That's how I feel now. When I decide to retire five years from now, we'll see where they are at that moment," he added. "We'll see where they are at that time, and maybe I'll reconsider. But it's their position and where their position will be will be the determination of what my decision will be at that time."

Giants general manager Brian Sabean reiterated Thursday that the team won't bring back Bonds next season. The seven-time NL MVP, who has spent 15 of his 22 major league seasons in San Francisco, was asked whether he will retire as a Giant.

"Yeah, it's my house. No matter what that's my house, no one's going to take that away, no one ever," Bonds answered. "No one's going to take the love of that city of me away, ever." Bonds, who has 762 homers, broke Aaron's record with a shot into the right-center seats off Washington Nationals pitcher Mike Bacsik at San Francisco on Aug. 7.

"I may hit two home runs so I can go home. I just think that I have a lot of game left. I think that I can help a team looking into steroids use in baseball while he is under investigation in the BALCO case. A grand jury has been investigating whether Bonds committed perjury when he testified he never knowingly took performance-enhancing drugs.

"I know it ends in January, so a couple more months. I may hit two home runs so I can go home. I just think that I have a lot of game left. I think that I can help a team looking into steroids use in baseball while he is under investigation in the BALCO case. A grand jury has been investigating whether Bonds committed perjury when he testified he never knowingly took performance-enhancing drugs. I know it ends in January, so a couple more months.

"I won't go. I won't be part of it," Bonds said in an interview with MSNBC that aired Thursday night. "You can call me, but I won't be there."

But I haven't been keeping up with it. Not at all," Bonds said. "I have nothing to hide. I have said that before and I will say it now and I will look you in the face. I have nothing to hide, nothing. So look all you want to."

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Switching to Division I caused football team’s ordeals

The FIU football program this past year has lived through a domino effect of miscues and humiliation. At first glance, the bench-clearing fight could be tagged as the first domino to fall. However, after a police report stated four football players disrupted a class by without winning. UM student-athletes have been involved in a plethora of violations over the years.

Factoring in all of these elements and some precipitation, this game really wasn’t supposed to be exciting at all. I am sure that many felt the same way (the game had the third-lowest home game attendance this season).

As the women’s soccer season closes, it is natural and necessary to take stock of this season and realize what has been learned.

More importantly, what needs to be worked on and perfected for the next go around in September.

Instead of undergoing the time-consuming and tedious task of analyzing each and every game (all 19 of them), one can realize the highs and lows of this season based on the performances of this past two-game series (Not to be lazy or anything. Believe me it’s worth it).

The first game of the series against Arkansas State was a meeting of the two statistically worst teams in the Sun Belt Conference. Both teams averaged a combined 1.84 goals a game, 1.57 assists, and were a combined 1-16-3.

Neither team has won since Sept. 23 which was the 2-1 victory against Stetson University for the Golden Panthers and a 3-2 win over Central Arkansas University for the Indians.

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The women's soccer team finished the 2007 season with more than 10 losses. They were decimated by injury and academic futility, the reality was setting in that there was a very competitive game going on in front of them.

The four players and their teammates must understand that their actions do not only affect their own reputations, but it if just few of them violate a law or embarrass themselves, then the whole football program suffers.

Since the football program is an entity representing FIU, the whole university suffers.

The team was winning some games and improving against lower tier teams; therefore, it is reasonable for some players to have a more arrogant mindset.

If the players are constantly being told how important they are to FIU's future, and how they can launch FIU up to a new stratosphere, then they are going to think too highly of themselves. In order to change that mentality, the Athletic Department will need to bring some players back to reality by enforcing the laws that were supposed to end the trend of “bad boy” student-athletes that several top universities have dealt with.

When athletic director Pete Garcia succeeded former AD Rick Mello, Garcia arrived with a no-nonsense agenda. He proved it by investigating the University’s history of abiding NCAA bylaws as soon as he was hired.

Therefore, the four players will most likely be reprimanded harshly.

If the Athletic Department wants to continue to prove to faculty and students that they are committed to recruiting student-athletes dedicated to academics, then they will have to somehow make an example out of the four players.

Although the players wrote letters of apology to the lab assistant, they shouldn’t be getting themselves into any type of predicament where they could be suspected of committing such an act.

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