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Athletics fee increase to cover budget deficit

CHARLES GRAU
BEAN BADGER JR.
SUSANA RODRIGUEZ
Beacon Staff

The University Fee Committee met Feb. 27 for two public hearings at University Park and Biscayne Bay Campus to listen to students concerns about a proposal to increase the Athletics fee for the second year in a row. The committee is a board composed of four students and four faculty/administrators that review student service fees and recommends which fee should be increased each year.

The hearings were held in order to listen to students’ concerns about a proposal to raise the athletics fee by $1.46 per credit hour. If passed, the increase will go toward helping offset a deficit in Athletics’ budget. According to SGC-UP president Marbely Hernandez, the deficit is at $3.5 million.

Funds raised from the proposed increase will also go toward the operation costs of the stadium, including staffing. According to Athletic Director Pete Garcia, fees will be used to pay the salaries of new employees added to the department.

Garcia said that the increase would generate a little over $1 million and said he was assured by administration that

Program rewards school spirit

BEN F. BADGER JR.
LAUREN AGOSTO
Beacon Staff

With empty seats constantly plaguing Golden Panther sporting events, the Student Government Council at University Park is devising a reward system to try and boost attendance; this system has been dubbed Panther Points.

The way the system works is relatively simple for students: attend a sports game and check in using your Panther ID card, which will earn a certain number of Panther Points. These points can then be exchanged for prizes. Less popular sports games such as golf will earn more points than one would receive from attending a football game.

The short term goal of the Panther Points pilot program is to develop an efficiently running tracking and rewards system, and subsequently, the membership of Panther Rage.

According to Michael Halpert, vice president of administration for Panther Rage, this system is basically an upgrade to the current point reward system used by his office for their members.

The pilot program will begin in August 2008, according to Halpert.

“While nothing specific has been decided, prizes could include food vouchers on campus, FIU memorabilia and other miscellaneous prizes.

Marlon Bright, athletics coordinator for the SGC-UP, hopes to launch a pilot of the program in conjunction with Athletics and Panther Rage, the organization responsible for promoting sport games among other events.

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Wolfsonian’s Webwise forum welcomes, informs guests

ROcio Blanco-Garcia
Staff Writer

With the beginning of a new month, the Wolfsonian-FLI prepares for its biggest event to date, a conference that highlights the center’s reputation and Miami Beach’s economy.

More than 300 Miami Beach hotel rooms have been booked for more than 350 professionals from museums, archives and related institutions from all over the country. They are expected to attend Webwise, a three-day annual national forum that addresses the emergence and implications of digital technologies on the museum and library communities.

While most attendees are expected to stay three days, some will extend their visit throughout the weekend to visit other cultural centers within the Miami Beach area. “This is one of those events that encourage the role culture plays in local economies,” said Cathy Leff, director of the Wolfsonian. The center will open its doors March 5 to a pre-conference session where a reception full of Latin flavor will welcome guests.

Latin-inspired foods and drinks will be served and the Grammy-nominated band Conjunto Proyecto will perform. On March 6-7 discussions will commence on the latest technology including 2.0 tools and software, which assist museums and libraries in accessibility to their respective audiences.

Using 2.0 technology, users can browse online catalogs, conduct research and view exhibitions without ever leaving their homes. “We are excited to learn about the technology that will be presented in terms of our own institutions,” said Susanna Temkin, Wolfsonian’s Webwise coordinator. “As hosts, we are also thrilled to be able to showcase our institution to our peers within the museum and library community.”

Highlights of the conference include a National Endowment for the Humanities pre-conference session, featuring recent grant-supported projects and a keynote address by Jonathan Fanton, president of the prestigious MacArthur Foundation.

Other topics, such as metadata software and 3D imaging to open source technology, will also be covered. During all three days, the Wolfsonian’s museum and gallery will also be open for attendees.

“We expect that our peers within the museum and library communities will really enjoy seeing them,” Temkin said. Even though the event has not yet arrived, for coordinators, it is already considered a success and is expected to reinforce the Wolfsonian’s role as an advocate of culture and education.

Registration reached capacity in January, and a waitlist had to be established for those who hope to attend.

Those who are interested in the event can register on the waitlist at http://webwise2008.fcla.edu.

Videos and information on selected topics discussed during the three-day event will also be available after the conference takes place via http://www.channel2.org.

For more information on the Wolfsonian and its upcoming events visit http://www.wolfsonian.org or call (305) 531-1001.

So you go...

If you go...

March 5: Pre-conference featuring Conjunto Proyecto

March 6 - 7: Webwise technology presentation

To register visit: http://webwise2008.fcla.edu

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Yin brought to international relations

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO Staff Writer

Chinese philosophy and international relations will merge at FIU’s lecture, “Spirituality in an Age of Global Terrorism” on March 5 at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

As part of Women’s History Month, four leading women with four different spiritual beliefs will discuss the positive effects that the rise from the yin — the female and passive cosmic force in the Chinese philosophy of yin and yang — would generate in international relations.

“There is a great spiritual hunger for peace, an end to war and greater relations with the world,” said Reverend Linnea Pearson, FIU Inter-Faith Chaplain and professor at the Religious Studies department. “We believe that men haven’t done a very good job. We will discuss how major world religions have oppressed women and perpetuated violence by preaching exclusiveness and conflict.

“Major religions have women in secondary command and devalued their contributions,” Pearson said.

A switch to the yin forces of “negotiation and compromise and empathy” will shift the United States policy of aggression to diplomacy in the international sphere, Pearson said.

Discussions on terrorism, spirituality, institutionalized religion and universal humanity will lead to a performance by Grammy nominee, Rachel Ford, who will attempt to invoke yin energies with a Buddhist hymn.

The lecture is free and open to the public and will take place at 7:30 p.m. at HBC’s Wolfe Theater. It is sponsored by Faith Matters: A Multi-Ethnic Alliance for Global Community, the FIU Center for the Study of Spirituality, the FIU Department of Women’s Studies and the BBC Campus Ministry.

Athletics seeks alternate funding

SPORTS, page 1

assured by administration that the rest of the deficit would get covered.

“Right now we do have a deficit in Athletics and this student fee will help us reduce that deficit,” Garcia said. “We’ll use this fee to close that gap.”

When asked by a student attendant how deep in debt the department is, Garcia said they didn’t know.

“They’re working on it right now, they don’t have exact numbers. It’s going to be more than the Athletic fee and the rest of it, the administration is finding other ways of funding that gap,” Garcia said.

Athletics is looking into raising money through sponsorship and other deals made with businesses.

“We’re looking at trying to get a naming partner for the stadium — whether we call it Nike Stadium or Coca-Cola or whatever it is — but that’s the other thing that we’ll have to do, not as Athletics, as a university. We have to brand our university,” Garcia said. “People want access to our 40,000 sorships and other deals from Athletics partnership proposal to pass.

“I think they need to scale back a bit with their rapid growth. We need to focus on making [FIU] grow without burdening students,” said senior David Dial.

He also said that insurance costs that covers its student athletes has increased including cost for, traveling, hiring new staff to service and work the stadium, additional compliance officers, strength coaches and assistant coaches have driven up the budget of the department.

Although not many students attended both of the public hearings, those who did voiced several concerns about the second consecutive increase for the Athletics.

Jonathan Doozan, SGC-BBC comptroller, said that he understands that many universities use athletics as a tool to brand their school, universities use athletics as a tool to brand their school, a D-I program,” he said.

“It’s understandable to invest in Athletics because there is the potential for bringing in revenue through athletic programs. They’re not going to get a return for the health fee or A&S fee,”

Others feel that Athletics hasn’t done enough to cut down the deficit and should not be asking for another fee increase.

“From what I see they are asking for inflation, for the cost of inflation. I think they need to scale back a bit with their rapid growth. We need to focus on making [FIU] grow without burdening students,” said senior David Dial.

SGC-UP is using the proposed athletic fee increase to help renegotiate the Athletic Partnership.

Already passed, the partnership will allow SGC-UP the opportunity to use the FIU Football Stadium, the baseball stadium, Pharmed Arena, the Donor’s club and a skybox for $30,000 over the next three years.

According to SGC-UP president Hernandez and Vice President A.J. Myer, they sat down with Garcia and Associate Athletic Director Julie Burg to discuss including the Athletics-partnership proposal into this fee increase if it were to pass.

If so, SGC-UP would get all the benefits from the deal they agreed to with athletics, but for free.

“What do you want more, $1 million or $30,000?” said SGC-UP comptroller Sergio Ibarra-Bolados.

The committee will meet again on March 5 to decide whether to recommend the proposed fee increase.
**Police Notes**

- Feb 21 - Police were called in reference to an African American male wearing a black T-shirt and blue jeans around the University Park Apartments during the night. The suspect, Marcellus Bailey, was parked on top of his desk. Upon his return to the desk the next morning, he discovered that unknown person(s) had removed his laptop from his desk. No further information was provided.

- Feb. 22 - An FIU staff member reported to police that he left his laptop on top of his desk overnight. Upon his return to the desk the next morning, he discovered that unknown person(s) had removed his laptop from his desk. No further information was provided.

- Feb. 26 - An FIU staff member was complaining of shortness of breath. Police and Miami-Dade Rescue responded to the scene. She was treated and released on the scene.

- Feb 27 - An FIU student reported to police that he parked his vehicle at the meter. His vehicle was also damaged during the break-in.

- Feb 27 - While investigating a loud gathering in Panther Hall during the midnight hours, FIU staff member came to the scene and caused further disturbance. The student was asked to provide some identification, at which point he provided officers with a suspended Delaware state drivers license. The student was then arrested and placed into custody for disorderly conduct and for unlawful use of a suspended Delaware state drivers license. He was transported to the station for processing. While at the station, the student admitted to know- ing that his Delaware driver’s license was suspended. A vehicle owned by a student with $351.25 worth of unpaid parking citations was locked with a Rhino parking immobilizer, placed by Department of Parking and Transportation personnel but, later on in the day, the vehicle and immobilizer were gone.

- Feb. 28 - While investigating a loud gathering in Panther Hall during the midnight hours, FIU student Brian White became loud and irate with officers responding to the scene and caused further disturbance. The stu- dent was repeatedly warned to calm down but continued to incite further commotion. The student was asked to provide some identification, at which point he provided officers with a suspended Delaware state drivers license. The student was then arrested and placed into custody for disorderly conduct and for unlawful use of a suspended Delaware state drivers license. He was transported to the station for processing. While at the station, the student admitted to know- ing that his Delaware driver’s license was suspended. A vehicle owned by a student with $351.25 worth of unpaid parking citations was locked with a Rhino parking immobilizer, placed by Department of Parking and Transportation personnel but, later on in the day, the vehicle and immobilizer were gone.

- Feb. 27 - An FIU student reported to police that he parked his vehicle at approximately 1:15 PM in Parking Lot #10 during soccer practice. Upon his return, the student discovered that unknown suspect(s) had gained access to his vehicle and stole several items including his Toshiba laptop, the car- rying case for the laptop, his iPod, his book bag and his Calculus Textbook. His vehicle was also damaged during the break-in.

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- Feb. 26 - An FIU staff member was complaining of shortness of breath. Police and Miami-Dade Rescue responded to the scene. She was treated and released on the scene.

- Feb 27 - An FIU employee stated to police that while servicing the park- ing meters in lot number 6, he found one parking meter damaged. On an unknown date or time, unknown person(s) apparently used unknown tool(s) to damage the top portion of the meter.

- Feb. 27: An FIU student reported to police that he parked his vehicle at approximately 1:15 PM in Parking Lot #10 during soccer practice. Upon his return, the student discovered that unknown suspect(s) had gained access to his vehicle and stole several items including his Toshiba laptop, the carrying case for the laptop, his iPod, his book bag and his Calculus Textbook. His vehicle was also damaged during the break-in.

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- Compiled by David Barrios

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**NEWS**

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### Business of beer taught at lecture series

**JEREMIA FERRE**

**Contributing Writer**

**Owning her own business was something Moriah Murphy dreamed about as a student at Florida State University, but she never thought it would be a beer selling business.**

Murphy, chief operating officer of 1812 South Inc., spoke to a crowd of about 250 who attended the Women Who Lead lecture series hosted by the School of Hospitality Management.

"The beer business is a very male dominated business," Murphy said.

Murphy served as a mentor for hundreds of young ladies present at the lecture Friday morning. She shared stories about the hardships she encountered in a predominantly male industry and how she successfully maneuvered her way around stereotypes that are normally associated with being a woman in the beer business.

"Women are used as marketing girls to sell beer," she said, while adding that when she walks into some boardrooms, the immediate expression on her male counterparts’ faces is: ‘They’re sending her in because someone thinks she’s cute."

Murphy tied in women empowerment with a crash course in beer management, explaining how her company sells their product. The company doesn’t use commercials, and instead relies on T-shirts and other unorthodox methods to get the word out.

"We’re not like the big guys, and we don’t want to look like the big guys,” she said.

Murphy’s War of 1812 ale is a craft beer. The difference between her beer and a big company’s is the amount of barrels brewed each year. The smaller amount of beer brewed, the better quality it will have.

"The ‘big guys’ Murphy refers to are the Coors and Budweisers of the beer industry. According to Murphy, in response to the success of smaller companies such as hers, the big companies have devised plans to trump the competition.

“They have consolidated and merged into bigger companies. They have become silent partners in smaller companies or simply bought them out, or they have developed their own craft beer,” she said.

Dealing with these daily challenges encourages Murphy to move on and make her beer stand out in a saturated market.

The imposing obstacles and constant competition do not seem to faze her.

"This industry is a blast; it’s a lot of fun," Murphy said.

Murphy might have found a young apprentice in the crowd. Fawn Coba, a student at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, found herself reevaluating her major after Murphy’s passionate speech.

“She made me think about a possible future in the beer industry,” Coba said.
Priest uncovers Jewish killings of thousands in the Ukraine at the age of 45 whose grandfather spent his life in labor camps. He never spoke about that, but Desbois' father's confession that led to his team's investigation. Desbois has discovered that the Nazi's had commissioned the murder of Jews in Ukraine in the summer of 1941.

The Students Program in conjunction with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, the Holocaust Memorial-Miami Beach and the Jewish Commuity Relations Council of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

Most people have a fairly narrow knowledge of what the Holocaust was, they think of the gas chambers, the camps," said Oren Stier, Judaic Studies Program director. "It's important for the FIU community to understand that even before the first gas camp was built, there was mass murder going on behind the eastern front of the German army in the early years of WWII.

In 2004, Desbois founded Yadah In Unum, an organization dedicated to investigating the shootings of Jews in the Ukraine between 1941 and 1944. Desbois and his team have collected physical proof of the "holycoats or bullets" in recorded testimonies by witnesses and found mass graves where Ukrainian Jews were buried alive.

It was Desbois' grandfather's confession that drew his attention to the Ukraine at the age of 45 to investigate what happened to thousands of Jews in 1941.

"My grandfather never spoke about that, he was a very funny person, and was always joking, but about the war it was complete silence," said Desbois, whose grandfather spent three years in a French soldier's prison in Rava-Ruska, Ukraine.

It had been assumed that the Nazi's had committed the killings, but after years of research, Desbois has discovered that Ukrainian citizens were also forced by the Nazi's to kill, transport and burn thousands of Jews.

"Everyone did the killing," said Paul Shapiro, director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, who has been working with Desbois for the last few years.

"By learning about what happened to thousands of Jews, you give their lives and deaths meaning," Shapiro said.

followed by the drawing of the Mandalas. The event is completed with a conformance ceremony.

Phillip F. Shapero arranged the event at the Bay campus. The event is the last event for the semester. Refreshments will be served after the event.

On Point Poetry will be presenting "A Woman's Worth" on Mar. 4th at 7 p.m. in the WUC Ballroom. This is the last event for the semester. Refreshments will be served after the event.

French wine tasting by Friends of Wine On Monday, Mar. 3. Friends of Wine will present "The Wonderful World of French Wines" in the Hospitality building dining room from 5 - 6:30 p.m. Tasters must be at least 21 years old and have proper ID. Entry is $4 for members, $8 for non-members.

 compiled by Ana Perez, Beacon Staff
America mourns the passing of William F. Buckley, Jr.

CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

When the phrase “conservative media” is spoken these days, what seems to pop up in people’s minds are media outlets such as the Fox News Network and talk radio and the talking heads who broadcast from those outlets, such as Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh.

The name William F. Buckley, Jr., especially to students, and perhaps the one before it, doesn’t register the way it used to and was perhaps even forgotten until Buckley passed away on Feb. 26.

Buckley’s impact on American politics is nothing short of seismic and this stalwart of the American conservative movement will be missed, as he always displayed a willingness to debate on an open forum and had an eloquent and erudite manner of expressing his beliefs.

Buckley aptly represented the core beliefs of the conservative ideology in contemporary American politics, refined to a point that would seem alien in today’s television and radio opinion programs.

He was able to combine the ideologies of free-market economics, traditionalist morality and zealous anti-Communism into a coherent and articulate argument, which formed the basis for his founding of the ground-breaking conservative magazine National Review.

He tried to disseminate his conservative agenda with his public affairs television program, “Firing Line.”

What these two forums created was the energy that catalyzed the formation of influential groups such as Young Americans for Freedom and they laid the foundation for Barry Goldwater’s presidential campaign in the 1964 election; culminating in 1980 with the Reagan presidency.

His ability to transform the milieu of the political system and largely making his brand of conservatism a force to be reckoned with, are the result of his influence, added by his use of giving conservatism a good and seemingly lucid face, as opposed to the extremism that characterized other conservative movements, such as the John Birch Society, among others.

While I may not agree with many, if not most, of Buckley’s beliefs, I can certainly respect and even appreciate his manner of carrying himself, especially inside the realm of debate. Buckley was a firm believer in the forum of discourse, preferring a knowledgeable and reserved style of debating that is sorely absent in the “shout fests” that dominate the media, especially conservative talk radio.

Ironically, it was the acceptance of conservatism’s thought in mainstream politics that brought a slew of people who viewed themselves as moderate, being denied the right to speak on behalf of the conservative masses.

Also ironic is the fact that Buckley’s liberal

Funds allocated to SGC-UP Athletics partnership can go to better use elsewhere

It would appear as though the SGC-UP finally came to its senses when it decided to include a $90,000 Athletics partnership, which would procure Athletics’ venues for student use within the proposed athletic fee increase.

Originally, SGC-UP was planning to take $90,000 – $30,000 over the next three years – out of the Activities and Service fees that make up its budget.

Now, if the fee increase passes, the SGC-UP won’t be paying a dime.

With the fee increased, SGC-UP can use the A&S fees in its rightful places.

“It’s completely unfair. It would be double dipping,” said Marbely Hernandez SGC-UP president in reference to the use of A&S fees to pay for something pertaining to Athletics.

When discussions of the fee increase began, SGC-UP Vice President Arthur Meyer and Hernandez went over all of their options.

“We sat down with Pete Garcia and Kathy Burg and negotiated. What we negotiated was including the athletics partnership proposal into this fee increase if it were to pass.” Meyer said. “But we looked at it and said, if we’re going to raise this, what can we get, what can the students benefit besides operational costs for the stadium?”

Despite the original enthusiasm of SGC-UP to spend the money prior to the revision, it seems to have changed its mind.

With the funds solely being dispensed from the income of the Athletics fees, SGC-UP is now espousing rhetoric along the lines of a contradiction. SGC-UP is now forcing support for the revision, making the proposal’s cost the responsibility of Athletics.

Their position, in and of itself, was contradictory and it was deplorable that they would try to pass it off as if SGC-UP had been steadfastly in support of the revision all along.

Less than a month ago, Meyer and the rest of his SGC-UP were willing to toss the money into the proverbial toilet for a few perks.

Any proposal wouldn’t be complete without some inconsistencies and contradictions on SGC-UP’s part.

You would think that with all the budget cuts we keep hearing about, Meyer and the rest of his SGC-UP would be more concerned.

Athletics’ money woes should be the least of the University’s concerns.

Accordingly, the money needed to be put to better use elsewhere; the Engineering Center, for example.

This is the heart of the matter, and it’s up to SGC-UP to either press on with its self-involved agenda, or mirror its Biscayne Bay Campus counterpart, which was against the proposal from the beginning, and start acting in the best interest of FIU’s students.

Students fail to wash hands

KEVIN CASTRO
Staff Writer

The majority of people do not wash their hands after using the bathroom. Shocked? You shouldn’t, chances are you are one of them. For a period of one week I ventured into three of FIU’s most widely used bathrooms and I measured the amount of students that washed their hands, compared to the number of lowlid individuals who think that their time is worth more than their own hygiene.

Not only is not washing your hands revolving and unsanitary, it poses a danger to others, as it carries viruses and bacteria. According to Biological Sciences Professor Martin Tracey, for the bacteria or virus to infect you, you have to “transfer the virus or bacteria so that it can get inside your body … through the nose, mouth, eyes and lips.”

In fact, as Tracey dictates, “you wash your hands first because you know where your penis has been all day but you don’t know where your hands have been all day.” Since E. coli spreads through “a lot of contact” you can be sure that the 43.07 percent of the people I observed in Graham Center who do wash their hands will be infected faster than a parking space fills up at FIU.

Although the thought that someone just finished removing their feces using nothing but a plain sheet of paper to separate their hand from the dreaded material is not an image on the back of everyone’s mind, you cannot argue with the numbers: $6.93 percent of people observed in GC do not wash their hands.
Students ignore personal hygiene, endanger others

Those who study biology and chemistry would very well understand the importance of washing your hands since “E. coli is 20 percent of feaces” said Tracy. It would please me greatly, and the rest of the University, if everyone would simply take 10-30 seconds from their lives to wash their hands.

The number of unwashed hands around FIU is almost horrifying. In the week of observation, it was almost incomprehensible that some portion around with filthy hands. Please wash your hands, there some who take the time out to be more hygienic. The majority, however, does not.

And yet, instead of any reference to the hard work for peace that is ongoing between the governments, the article can only call for “our (American) government to stop the mass oppression and collective punishment of innocent Palestinians.”

The implication is clear: neither Israelis nor Americans have human rights of their own. Israel is attacked for its right to defend itself against arbitrary murder. Yes, that is what the article implies when it dismisses “rocket fire” at Israeli towns as if it were harmless firecrackers, and the rest of the University, if not.

The majority, however, does not. That is what the article implies when it dismisses “rocket fire” at Israeli towns as if it were harmless firecrackers. These explosive missiles are intended to kill and maim, as many civilians as possible and to spread terror. Targets have been schools and shopping centers.

In addition, America is criticized for having our own network of defense, and for sending “tax dollars in aid” to our closest ally in the Middle East.

If you find yourself always forgetting to wash your hands, you are 30 seconds late for skipping a wash would most likely be running off to class before you are 30 seconds late along with the professor. It is common in Deuxieme Maison, where only 43.05 percent of people I observed washed their hands.

The only exception to this phenomenon would be the bathrooms of Owa Eban. In O.E., 76.31 percent of people wash their hands. In O.E., 76.31 percent of people wash their hands. In O.E, O.E. is strictly filled with chemistry and biology labs.

UCC helps otherwise directionless students find unknown aptitudes through experimentation

The Beacon’s February 25th editorial (Students desensitized by UCC) really make me think about education today.

First, the author presents a picture of a higher education curriculum geared to technical and professional career paths.

There is nothing wrong with this, but this one-track, utilitarian focus of education.

This is exactly the root of many of the problems that face Miami-Dade County. In particular, its public education system.

Education is both a struggle and a maturing process, not merely an incentive to making it big. Though we all wish and desire success in our future professional endeavors, only those who accept the challenge of rethinking everything we thought we were taught in high school (rehashing) will reap the greater benefits from this experience.

College education is not only about the UCC we have to go through, it is also about how we approach that curriculum.

We must discover new strategies of learning and engagement with our fellow students in our university and our community.

If after two years through the UCC a students really “ends up knowing just as much as in high school.” Then the problem is not the curriculum, but rather what the student expects from education.

The author concludes by claiming that “[e]ssentially, FIU students are studying for the sake of studying.”

For a large number of young students, particularly those students right out of high school, this is precisely the time for them to focus on studying.

Only after going through a variety of disciplines and ideas will a student’s own ideas about their future will begin to take root.

Though I acknowledge the problems that may exist in the UCC (overcrowded classes, overworked adjunct faculty), apathy does not begin in the classroom, but rather in the individual.

Mauro J. Caracciolo
Graduate Student
International Relations

Rhonda Rosenberg
Special to the Beacon

I was taken aback by an article in the Opinion section that appeared in the Jan. 31 issue of The Beacon, “Americans should demand solidarity for Palestine.”

The article is filled with anti-Israeli and anti-American biases, complete with erroneous "facts.”

Nowhere in the article is there even a hint of opposing view. Nowhere is there a suggestion that Israel and the United States have a legitimate argument.

So I thought it would be important for my course's purposes to face up to such a bias. Right off the bat, the article relied on a handful of radical organizations that have called for taking a "stand for human rights.

And yet, instead of any reference to the hard work for peace that is ongoing between the governments, the article can only call for "our (American) government to stop the mass oppression and collective punishment of innocent Palestinians.”

The implication is clear: neither Israelis nor Americans have human rights of their own. The article is filled with presupposition that America dying with Lincoln is "no too far from the truth.

Rhonda Rosenberg is a assistant research professor in the Stempel School of Public Health.

UCC helps otherwise directionless students find unknown aptitudes through experimentation

It is necessary to respond to what you wrote a week in your opinion column (Castro-less Cuba’s future not set in stone). It can only be categorized as extreme, ignorant and incredibly off point.

Your hatred for President Bush is obvious; unfortunately that hatred has also biased your writing.

The intent of your writing was not to truly investigate what the change in political climate might yield in Cuba, but much more so as a platform in which to launch unsubstantiated attacks on the Bush administration and even more disturbingly on the USA itself.

You show no hesitation in jumping to wild speculation about what you assume “could” happen. You go on to sell your unsubstantiated viewpoint to your readers as if it were a universally accepted fact.

All the US administration has said is that it has no plans to lift the embargos on Cuba. And why should they?

In addition, with the administration’s remaining time in office, you go on to talk about the “outstanding Universal Healthcare system” that Castro implemented in Cuba. You even go as far as to say that Cuba has “successfully lived under a socialist regime”. I think that the vast majority of your readers, especially the Cuban Americans, will disagree with your definitions of “success” and "outstanding”.

However, what has forced me to take time out of my busy schedule is to respond to your comment that America dying with Lincoln is "no too far from the truth.

This is an inexcusable insult to the forefathers of our country who dedicated their lives to bettering our country. This statement exposes you as nothing more than an ill-informed, jingoistic, proud sitting in front of a PC proudly utilizing a right to free speech as if it was self earned.

Our country has undeniably made incredible progress socially, industrially and scientifically since Lincoln’s death.

Yet your hate for Bush has persuaded you to ignore and even mask these accomplishments.

At the same time you champion a dictatorship that has arguably accomplished very little to nothing in the last 50 years.

Rob Rodier
Class of 2003
Humans have been responsible for the extinction of many different species; the next one on the list could be the bee. According to the Florida Department of Agriculture, “during the months of October, November and December of 2006, an alarming number of honey bee colonies began to die along the east coast of the United States.”

The numbers of bees dying are not small either, as Cosmos Magazine stated. “Across 24 U.S. states affected by the mysterious phenomenon, losses have ranged up to 90 percent.” Those are thousands of hives lost, according to Dr. Suzanne Koptur, professor of biological sciences.

“There is a syndrome called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD),” Koptur said. “It appears that the bees get disoriented and they go out foraging, collecting nectar from flowers, but on the way back they get lost and do not return to the nest. Without the food, larvae die and the colony collapses.”

The collapse and destruction of bee hives could have widespread negative effects on mankind. Bees are extremely important to the economy. Bees pollinate $15 billion worth of fruit, vegetables and nuts, especially the $2 billion almond business,” reported The Economist in April 2007. The bees could be dying off in massive numbers for a multitude of reasons, yet it seems likely that humans may be partially responsible for their disappearance.

The dead bees had several things in common. The colonies had all been moved as many as two to five times in 2006, according to the Florida Drug Association. Moving is stressful to bees due to “confine- ment, temperature fluctuations and possible reduction (or cessation) of egg laying.” Other factors that would also affect the bees would be the “rate of defection in the colony, forced mingling of young and older – possibly infected – adult bees and an increased chance of disease transmis- sion.” They could also be more exposed to new diseases and pathogens due to the constant moving.

Another factor that may add to these deaths may be that “beekeepers are con- stantly ‘splitting’ colonies to make up for losses,” according to the FDA. Beekeep- ers are also continually recycling back the equipment from the dead colonies to create new split.

Existing food reserves in the dead hives are provided to the new colonies; potentially any disease agent or chemical contaminant would be carried over to the new colony, the FDA states.

Large scale splitting of colonies can also be stressful on bees and alters the age profile of the worker population in the hives. “Older bees are forced to act as nurse bees. These bees are not as efficient in brood provisioning and may be more likely to be infected with diseases affect- ing adult bees,” the FDA reported. Stress also compromises the bees immune system and make it easier for diseases to infect the bees.

The possible causes don’t end there. There has been evidence suggesting bees are dying due to pathogens raised in condi- tions caused by humans. Among the clues pointing to a possible disease according to the FDA is “the sting gland of many examined bees that were obviously scarred with distinct black ‘marks.’ This type of pin-point darkening is indicative of an immune response to some sort of pathogen.” Even the queens are infected since “in addition to their sting glands, evi- dence of melanosis was found in the ovaries of infected queens. These queens were superseded by colonies. Subsequent research has documented damage to hypopharyngeal glands of worker bees.”

The effects of a virus could be severe, according to Dr. Martin Tracey, professor of biology. “There will be bees that will be resis- tant to the virus, but if there is [only] a small percentage left then there won’t be enough to pollinate,” Tracey said.

When asked what would be the fate of humanity if all Northern American and European bees would die off, Koptur responded: “We wouldn’t have much to eat, 20-50 percent of all food eaten depends on pol- lination ... our diets would be a lot plainer. Scientists are currently working on it, since bees are really important to both our economy and to nature.”

The bees are dying of all over the U.S. and Europe and it is most likely the fault of humans. Scientists are still search- ing for answers, and hope- fully the problem will be solved on time.
The Alpha Xi Delta sorority will host its annual Xi Man pageant on Tuesday, March 4 for the seventh year in a row. The sorority, which has raised more than $1,000 every year for its philanthropy project, Choose Children, is partnering with Make-A-Wish Foundation for the first time.

The competition is designed to elect a gentleman as AXD’s sweetheart for the year. This gentleman will help AXD meet their monetary goals, ultimately aimed at helping children.

“We look for a man who we think embodies our ideals and values,” said Jenna Stone, Alpha Xi Delta’s vice president. “We think that he can really contribute to our philanthropy project.”

AXD, which organizes the competition to donate money to any children organization of their choice, is looking forward to making a difference by granting a child’s wish.

“Last year, we donated roughly $3,000 to Make-A-Wish,” Stone said. “Hopefully we can raise more money this year to grant a larger wish to a kid or two.”

Xi Man’s competition is comprised of three different rounds: best feature, talent performance and worst-case scenario. During the best feature portion, the participants are not allowed to speak – they have to visually demonstrate their best attribute. Before moving into the next round, some of the gentlemen are eliminated and the remaining contestants move on to the five minute talent segment. After the talent performance is completed, a second elimination takes place. This allows the final five to battle in the worst-case scenario questionnaire.

The show attracts 200 to 300 people every year. It is judged by members of the faculty and staff, and by the chapter’s advisor. The pageant is also going to be judged by a representative of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Apart from judging, the representative will explain what the organization is and what they have done or plan to do with the help of AXD.

Last year’s winner, Albert Gonzalez, was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. Yet, according to Ashley Fernald, philanthropy chair of Alpha Xi Delta, any gentleman from FIU can compete in the event; he doesn’t have to be from a fraternity.

Following the event, there will be a raffle where members of the audience can participate. We have really awesome raffle items and the proceeds will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which is for a great cause,” Fernald said. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. in University Park’s Graham Center Ballrooms. Tickets will be sold at the entrance for $8 or before the event for $5 in GC. For additional information on the event, students can contact Stone at (954) 829 5496 or via e-mail at jstone824@yahoo.com.
Cute felines, clever captions spark LOLCats craze

A month ago, I expressed worry about the lack of quality movies coming out in the month of February. While there were your typical popular, critically panned action films, a good number of quality movies made their way into theaters, even if audiences didn’t seem to notice.

March offers audiences a little more substance in their choices, with movies ranging from prehistoric thrillers to childhood favorites and then some.

10,000 BC (MARCH 7)

From the maker of the apocalyptic (and somewhat “preachy”) “The Day After Tomorrow,” “10,000 BC” will feature more of the same big budget special effects that made that movie the 45th highest grossing film of all time.

The story follows a warrior who leads a hunter-gatherer tribe on a journey to find his lost love. Along the way, he encounters saber toothed tigers and giant ground sloths.

If you think that story line sounds too cheesy, think about the storyline of “The Day After Tomorrow” and then remember that it made half a billion dollars in theaters. This one should have a similarly strong showing in the box office.

DR. SEUSS’ HORTON HEARS A WHO (MARCH 14)

Despite the commercial success of the live action version of “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” most of the big screen adaptations of Seuss’ classic children’s stories have been unable to capture the magic of the books.

“Horton Hears A Who,” which stars Steve Carell, Jim Carrey and Seth Rogen, is looking to buck that trend by shifting to a format that might better recreate the spirit of Seuss’ classic stories: computer animation.

This story should be familiar to anyone who grew up with Seuss’ books. To recap, Horton is an elephant who discovers a tiny speck which is home to an entire speck of dust that is home to an entire civilization.

While the rest of the creatures around him can’t hear him, he has to try to convince the Who’s, who live on the speck, to make their presence known.

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (MARCH 21)

This action/adventure movie starring Simon Pegg of “Shaun Of The Dead” and “Hot Fuzz.”

While the title might upset some of those in the audience who are sensitive about their figure, this new movie from first time director Pegg has shown brilliant comedic abilities in his previous films, which he co-wrote, but it remains to be seen how he can do with someone else’s script and characters.

RUN, FAT BOY, RUN (MARCH 28)

Based on the true story of MIT students who try to pay their way through school by counting cards in Vegas and taking the payouts, “21” features Jim Sturgess and Kate Bosworth as two of the students who test their luck against the casino bosses and security.

The film follows the rise and fall of the group as they become enamored with the high life they find themselves in, and eventually push their enemies too far.

This action/adventure movie is looking to cash in on Sturgess’ rising star and casino film clichés.
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Mike > XLNT! Gr8 experience. Can you get me a job?

Dan > U bet. I’ll give you a ref.

Mike > Thx!

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Check out all our opportunities at: www.aramarkcollegerelations.com/fiu
CIAO SANGRE, CALIF. Screamo band Dance Gavin Dance performed at Ft. Lauderdale’s Culture Room on Feb. 22. Prior to the show, members of the band spoke to The Beacon in an exclusive interview discussing the progress of their latest record, lineup changes and what would win in a fight among Spider-Man, Superman and Batman.

The Beacon: How difficult has the transition been to a new singer, Kurt Travis, and a new guitarist, Zachary Garren?

Swan (Guitar): There really wasn’t a transition. It just kind of happened. Once we got Zack, he just got thrown in the mix. We were on tour when Zack started playing with us so there wasn’t any kind of transition. One day, he was doing [merchandise] and the next day he was playing with us. Kurt, we practiced with him for like two weeks before we started this tour so everything was really quick.

The Beacon: What was it like finding your new singer?

Matt Mingus (Drums): Everybody had heard [that we needed a new singer] so we got like millions of people’s recordings. We had a few people in mind, Kurt being one of them because we’ve known him for a long time – we knew his old band, Five Minute Ride – and he was from Sacramento, where we lived as well. So we tried him out with two other people that came down and actually tried.

Swan: We basically narrowed it down to three serious candidates and we picked Kurt.

The Beacon: How far along is the next album?

Swan: Well, we have five songs done. We don’t have a mark for how many many we want. We just want to get as many songs and as much material as we can.

Jonathan Mess (Screamed Vocals): There’s six and seven songs kind of in the works so that’s about half of it.

The Beacon: How did you guys get the art on the cover of your debut album?

Eric Lodge (Bass): On the first one, we were just chilling because the van had died. We were hanging out in the parking lot of a hotel for like two hours. Two cops rolled up on us [saying] we were disturbing the peace and all this… [Laughs]

Mingus: The Netherlands… yeah it think it’s the Netherlands.

Mess: Or somewhere in Scandinavia. He does a ton of stuff that looks a lot like that. It’s all hand-drawn. We found that and thought it was really cool. [Our record label], Rise, ended up putting it on gold foil so it would flex.

Swan: And we actually named the album before we found that artwork, which is weird because it’s [a drawing of] Superman and Batman. With the album’s name it kind of goes together. So it just stuck.

The Beacon: On your MySpace, it says the band got pulled over twice on a downtown. With the [album’s] name it makes sense. As Gavin made their exit, The Chariot started setting up their equipment and the Culture Room suddenly became much tighter as even more people began to shove themselves into the already packed venue.

The Christian rockers proceeded to pop the ear drums of anyone in the general vicinity of Fort Lauderdale with screams that would’ve shattered your mother’s favorite glassware.

The mosh pit became even larger as The Chariot performed songs from their premiere album, “Everything Is Alive, Everything Is Breathing, Nothing Is Dead, and Nothing Is Bleeding” as well as material from sophomore album, “The Fiancée.”

Coming back to their home state for one last show before embarking on a European tour, Poizen Idol stormed into the stage with a barrage of ear-splitting screams and chill-inducing chords.

The band played old hits “Nerdy” and “Sick Paper Wristbands” and songs from their most recent album, Versions. Chaos ensued.

Fans jumped around the pit and another as others ran to the second floor of the venue for safety. Security seemed to do little to control the stage diving, much to the dismay of those getting crushed by falling bodies.

After the show, fans made their way towards the merchandise table outdoors to buy t-shirts and CDs. Some got to take picture with their favorite band members while others went home to nurse their wounds.

The Chariot performed at Ft. Lauderdale’s Culture Room on Feb. 22, 2008.
Clinique Acne Solutions

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Slow offensive start, free throws sink team at home

MEN’S, page 16

fustrate the Golden Panthers’ offense consistently with an effective dose of backcourt pressure.

“[Setting the trap] what they do well,” Rouco said. “They do not want to let you run a set because if we did that then we can use Russell [Hicks] in a bright advantage.

They went back into a zone when we got them into foul trouble, and that’s when we made a little run, but they take everybody off their offense, and if you handle it you can make easy baskets, and if not they’re going to make you pay.”

FIU also hurt itself when it missed many transition opportunities and shot under 70 percent from the foul line for the game.

“If you don’t make free throws, you take away momentum,” Rouco said. “Every time we tried to make a run and we got to the free-throw line, we didn’t convert. You have to convert – kill the clock.”

The Hilltoppers also controlled the boards, out-rebounding the Golden Panthers 36-28 after FIU had won the rebounding battle against its opponents in 11 of its last 13 games.

Now, FIU has no chance of hosting a first round game in the conference tournament.

The Golden Panthers will look to gain any momentum possible in its last game on March 1 against South Alabama.

“We’re looking at finishing up [Chris] Fuller’s career at home, because we can’t host,” Rouco said. “Hopefully it’ll gives us a little momentum to where we need to go.”

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South Alabama 18-10 9-8 .500
Florida International 12-16 8-9 .429
Troy 12-16 5-12 .294
Florida Atlantic 6-20 2-15 .231

Western Kentucky 79, FIU 56
Pacers scored seven runs, and they would eventually win 16-11.

Lozano finished 2-for-4 with a home run, a double and three RBIs. He also had a career-high four runs scored.

Two hits is all the Golden Panthers' offense could muster in their most lopsided loss of their young season.

Playing in its first game against FIU, FGCU (4-1) jumped out to an early 4-0 lead in the second inning off of starter Daniel DeSimone.

As the Golden Panthers head into this weekend's pair of contests that he and his brother have noticed at the college level as opposed to the high school level.

The game’s a lot faster; the hits are a lot better,” he said. “You just got to get ahead in the count and make your pitches.”

He saw game-action against USC opening night and recorded his first collegiate victory on Feb. 26 against Barry despite having a shaky outing.

“I didn’t pitch as well as I hoped to but things don’t always turn out the way you want them to,” he said.

He allowed four earned runs on four hits while also walking two and recording no strikeouts.

The rough two-thirds of an inning was good enough to record the win for Carlos as Danny, who’s also a right-hander, has yet to pitch in a live game.

On the season, the finisher Jorge Marban appeared twice in the opening week-end series and threw two scoreless innings. He is currently the only Golden Panther reliever yet to surrender a run.

Baseball suffers worst loss of season

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**SWEET AND SOUR**

Team wins first game of season, routed in next game

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**BASEBALL: GAME 1 - FIU 16, BARRY 11; GAME 2 - FGCU 13, FIU 1**

Team wins first game of season, routed in next game

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**MEN’S BASKETBALL: WESTERN KENTUCKY 69, FIU 54**

Panthers fall to Hilltoppers

**LUCA MESSINA**

Staff Writer

After getting swept at the hands of the University of Southern California on the opening week of the season, the basketball team (1-4) split a pair of games defeating Barry (9-6) 16-11 and falling to Florida Gulf Coast University 13-1 at University Park Stadium on Feb. 26-27.

“Our pitching has got to improve for sure,” coach Tyler Townsend said. “We’ve been playing pretty fair defense along the way to fly through five games, and we’ve swung it OK for four games.”

After scoring 16 runs and pounding out 11 hits against Barry to record their first win of the season, the Golden Panthers’ offense went flat the following day notching only two hits and one run against FGCU.

The FIU bullpen continued to struggle as it surrendered nine earned runs against Barry and nine runs versus FGCU.

“It’s got a long way to go,” Thomas said.

**FIU 16, BARRY 11**

The Golden Panthers relinquished three leads before a seven-run rally in the eighth inning gave Thomas his first victory as FIU’s head coach.

FIU’s offense amassed 11 hits and scored 16 times in what was a back and forth affair between two schools meeting for the first time in 12 years.

**TRAPPED:** Junior center Russell Hicks was limited to seven points on 3-of-12 shooting against Western Kentucky who dealt the Golden Panthers their biggest blow. The Hilltoppers shot 51 percent for the game and had seven players score at least seven points in the contest. Sophomore A.J. Slaughter’s led the team with 12 points. The versatile sixth man went 6-of-12 from the field and also grabbed four rebounds.

In addition to Western Kentucky’s smooth offensive game, their complete team effort included defense as they were able to complete team effort included defense.

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**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL: WESTERN KENTUCKY 79, FIU 56**

Golden Panthers clinch home court despite home loss

**LUCA MESSINA**

Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers clinched the Sun Belt Conference’s No. 1 team, handed the Golden Panthers up 1-0. After Barry scored a run a piece in the second and third innings to go up 2-1, FIU scored three runs on three hits to take a 4-2 advantage in the third inning. FIU would let its second lead fizzle in the seventh inning after the Buccaneers tied up the score with two runs on three hits.

In the bottom half of the seventh inning, FIU scored five more runs highlighted by a three-run home run by senior Rainey Fuentes and a solo shot by sophomore Tyler Townsend to left center-field to put FIU up 9-4.

Barry’s offense unleashed in the 8th inning, scoring six more runs off reliever Evan Ellison and Carlos Martinez.

The inning was capped by a grand slam by right fielder John Servidio to put Barry up 10-9.

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