**THAT’S A WRAP**

**NEW TRANSLATOR DELIVERS CRISP SOUND WAVES TO BBC LISTENERS**

After 10 years of uncertainty and hard work, "the time has come," said former Radiate FM General Manager Brennan Forsyth.

Radiate FM, the FIU student radio station, installed its translator on top of the Marine Biology building and began transmitting through its new signal, 96.9 FM on Feb. 28.

This will be the first time students and faculty at Biscayne Bay Campus can hear the station in their cars or on their stereos. The new signal can be heard from as far as Key Biscayne to Dania Beach.

"This is the biggest milestone the station has reached," said sophomore Pablo Penton, current Radiate FM general manager. "This is going to allow us to reach new students and more people."

The translator, which sits 40 feet above the Marine Biology building, will broadcast within a 10 to 15 mile radius of BCC. Penton and the station’s student engineer, Tom Morris, spent four days on top of the roof of the building, working in the rain and cold last week, and finished the transmitter on Feb. 28.

"We braved quite a wind chill up there. It was absolutely freezing by the new Florida standards, anyone from up north would have laughed at us," Morris said.

For Penton though, the cold and wet conditions were well worth it.

"Ten years of work and 20 years of dreaming have finally come to fruition," Penton said.

The station now has three signals. In order to pick up the signal all over South Florida, listeners will have to switch between three stations on their radio dial.

• 88.1 can be heard in the southern portion of Miami-Dade county and northern portion of Monroe county.

• 95.3 can be heard within a 10 to 15 mile radius of University Park.

• 96.9 can be heard within a 10 to 15 mile radius of Biscayne Bay Campus.

Radiate FM is now broadcasting to about 3.5 million listeners, which is the 12th largest radio market in the country according to Arbitron, a media and research company.

"This is going to unite both campuses," said Student Media Director Robert Jaross, adviser for WRGP and The Beacon.

Penton said he would like to open a studio at BBC so students can do their own shows without commuting to UP.

"This is going to give a lot of students, especially in [the School of Journalism and Mass Communication] a chance to get some experience in radio," Penton said.

Besides acting as a source for music and sports programming, the station is also used as an information outlet to the University and community. During a hurricane or time of crisis, the station has been dubbed Panther Points.

The Beacon newspaper, which has been dubbed Panther Radio, hopes to launch a pilot of the program in conjunction with Athletics and Panther Rage, the organization responsible for promoting sporting events, among other events.

"The ultimate goal of Panther Points pilot program was to develop an efficiently running tracking and rewards system, and increase attendance at athletic events, and subsequently, the membership of Panther Rage," Bright said.

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.

"When the pilot Panther Points program launches, it will only be open to Panther Rage members.

With empty seats constantly plaguing Golden Game 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.

While nothing specific has been decided, prizes could include food vouchers on campus, IFU 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 fee increase to cover budget deficit

**Program rewards school spirit**

**Athletics fee increase to cover budget deficit**

**CHARLIE GRAU**

**BEN F. BADGER JR., SUSANA RODRIGUEZ**

Radiate FM General Manager Brennan Forsyth and Media Director Robert Jaross meet 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 million.

Funds raised from the proposed increase will also go toward the operation costs of the stadium, including staffing. According to Athletics 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 it would be used as an information outlet to the University and community. During a hurricane or time of crisis, the station would be called Panther Points.

"This will be the first time students and faculty at Biscayne Bay Campus can hear the station in their cars or on their stereos. The new signal can be heard from as far as Key Biscayne to Dania Beach."

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"When the pilot Panther Points program launches, it will only be open to Panther Rage members.

"We still have to work out the kinks," Halpert said.

"The ultimate goal of Panther Points is to be able to open it up as a campus wide system owned and operated by Athletics," Bright said.
TUESDAY • MARCH 4

The Art of Visual Arts Display:
8 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)

7 p.m., Graham Center 243

8 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)

Bowl:
Honors Council General Meeting:
12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m., Graham Center 305

ENGAGE Leadership Workshop:
3:30 p.m. - 4:40 p.m, RDB 1100

L. Draper
Presidential Lecture Series Presents Robert
4 p.m., Campus Life Conference Room (BBC)

SPC BBC General Meeting:
3:30 p.m., Graham Center 150

Italian Club General Meeting:
12 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

Anything Goes Anime General Meeting:
12 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

Anything Goes Anime General Meeting:
8 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

The Art of Fashion- Fashion Show:
8 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)

The Art of Fashion- Fashion Show:
8 p.m., WUC Theatre (BBC)

Head to Head Jeopardy:
2 p.m., GC 243 - Come watch students battle against Honors College professors.

On Point Poetry:
6 p.m. - 7 p.m., WUC (BBC)

Gran Via Italiano: Pre-conference session, featuring recent grant-supported projects and a keynote address by Jonathan Fenton, 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://www.march10.org or call (305) 531-1001.

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 know...
If you go...

March 5: Pre-conference featuring Conjoint Project
March 6 - 7: Webwise technology presentation

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

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JOIN OUR STAFF!
Women Studies department, Prajna, and Reverend Linnea Pearson, 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 think maybe it’s time for women to give it a try.”

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**

**FEF, 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 sponsorships 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 students and other deals made with businesses."

“**You’re never ready to be D-I program,**” he said. He also said that insurance costs that covers 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 Dooran, SGC-BBC comptroller, said that he understands that many universities use athletics as a tool to brand their school, but needs more information from Athletics to make a educated decision.

“This is what I would like to know: how many suites are there [at the football stadium], the Donor’s club and a skybox for $30,000 over the half time,” Garcia said. “Right now we do have a deficit in Athletics and this student fee will help us reduce that deficit.”

Other 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 proposal will go 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 Buitrago.

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

**CONTINUING THE LEGACY**

**Martin Luther King III speaks in the Graham Center ballrooms last week. His lecture, “My father’s legacy, my mission,” was presented as part of Black History Month celebrations.**

**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 in international relations,” 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 think maybe it’s time for women to give it a try.”

As part of Women’s History Month, four women to give it a try.”

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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 found in Building X. Police arrived on scene and arrested Mr. Bailey for trespassing. Bailey had previously been warned for the same offense on the FIU campus and had an outstanding warrant for felony battery.

- 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 employee stated to police that while servicing the parking 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.

- Feb. 27 - 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 student 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 license. He was transported to the station for processing. While at the station, the student admitted to knowing that his Delaware driver’s license was suspended. A vehicle owned by a student with $351.25 worth of unpaid parking citations was locked by Department of Parking and Transportation personnel but, later on in the day, the vehicle and immobilizer were gone.

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- Compiled by David Barrios

Business of beer taught at lecture series

JEERIMA FERRER 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.
University’s Office of Emergency Management uses the station to warn students and faculty of any potential dangers on campus.

“We now have a unifying medium and another way to get information to people to quickly. We can get to people quickly in the case of an emergency,” Jaros said.

Radiate FM got its start in August of 1987 as WUFI radio on 530 AM. In July 1999 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) granted permission to switch to 88.1 on the FM dial, in a move that Alfred Soto, assistant director of student media, called the most significant in Radiate FM’s history.

“Overnight [the station] went from a student club to a potential force on campus. There was no real progress till 2004 when FCC gave us authority to broadcast on that signal,” said Soto, who was also a WRGP deejay as a student. “This opens up untold possibilities on both campuses.”

The dream almost never became a reality after a series of problems got in the way of launching 96.3. The station faced many road blocks including pirates who illegally broadcasted on the signal for months. Despite the hurdles that the station faced, they managed to overcome them.

“It’s a true example that persistence pays off,” Lunsford said.

Morris, who was heavily involved with installing the translator, is already looking to the future and even thinking about expanding the station more.

“If the FCC opened up translator applications again, I would love to get a translator up on the Pines Center,” Morris said. “If there’s free spot on the dial, I’ll do it.”

From its inception 21 years ago, Morris’ ambitious dream may not seem that far-fetched.

“Two years ago, we didn’t even hear our radio station on either campus; now you can pick it up as far as the Key Largo,” Jaros said.

“Most people have a 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 Yadav In Umun, 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 “holocaust by bullets” in recorded testimonies by witnesses and survivors 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.
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 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 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 Julie 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 contradiction 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 priorities.

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 Biszczynska 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

The majority of people do not wash their hands after using the bathroom. Shocked? You shouldn’t be, 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 lewd individuals who think that their time is worth more than their own hygiene.

Not only is not washing your hands revolting 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 bacteria or virus into your body … through the mouth, nose, eyes and lips.”

In fact, as Tracey dictates, “you wash your hands first before you use the bathroom 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 defecated material is not an image on the back of everyone’s mind, you cannot argue with the numbers: 5.93 percent of people observed in GC do not wash their hands.

Soiled Hands

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 modern youth and perhaps the one before it, doesn’t register the way it used to and was perhups 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 make 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 logical 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 airwaves today.

Unfortunately, while Buckley was monumental in the formation of the modern conservative movement, he also provided the groundwork for the rise of the conservative media, especially conservative talk radio.

Ironically, it was the acceptance of conservatism 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 education in the elite private schools of Britain and France and at Yale University resulted in the background that allowed him to speak so eloquently and with such polysyllabic exuberance, as noted by the Douglas Martin of The New York Times.

But, alas, today’s brand of political commentary, at least in terms of the mainstream media, is far from being eloquent and miles away from erudite.

Perhaps the conservative media should try to emulate his ability to rise above the fray and try to bring back serious, reasoned and civil debates. William F. Buckley, the “scourge of liberalism” and the favorite conservative orator, will be missed.
Students ignore personal hygiene, endanger others

THE SOAPBOX:
An Op-Ed Column
Israelis, Palestinian conflict misrepresented

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 an attempt at opposing view. Nowhere is there a suggestion that Israel and the United States have a legitimate argument.

So I thought it would be an important option for our campus for people to face up to such a bias. Right off the bat, the article rests 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. Israel is attacked for its right to defend itself against arbitrary murder. Yes, that is what the article implies when it dismisses that aid is substantially less than the cost of U.S. soldiers in Germany, in order to defend Europe; or in South Korea to defend its territory; or even in the tiny Arab kingdom of Kuwait. The article’s author “believes the United States is responsible” for the Palestinian people, but fails to mention 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 United States 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 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.

Israel is attacked for its right to defend itself...what the article implies when it dismisses “rocket fire” at Israeli towns as if it were harmless firecrackers. The students and faculty of FIU should know that they can find a measure of objective truth in the free press of the only real democracy in the Middle East. Read it for yourselves at the “Repubican” Jerusalem Post (www.jpost.com) or the “Democrat” Haaretz (www. haaretz.com), Israel’s two largest English-language papers.

The degree of Israeli self-criticism is refreshing, even of their own policies. We need to press for more than “opinion”; we need critical thinking to invest.

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

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor can be sent to joseph.marhee@fi usm.com. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words and include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UCC helps otherwise directionless students find unknown aptitudes through experimentation

The Beacon’s February 25th editorial (Students desensitized by UCC) really made 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 full 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 “[essentially,] I find 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, overweighted adjunct faculty), apathy does not begin in the classroom, but rather in the individual.

Mauro J. Caraccioli
Graduate Student
International Relations

Presupposition of Cuba’s future called into question, deemed extreme, ignorant

It is necessary to respond to what you wrote last 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 United States 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 term in office coming to an end in less than a year, many of the plans that you represent the administration to be currently contemplating are flat out impossible given their 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 not too far from the truth”.

This is an inexusable insult to the forefathers of our country who dedicated their lives to bettering our country. This statement exposes you as nothing more than an infomed inferior, who safely sits 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 dictator 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.”

Collapse and destruction of bee hives could have widespread negative effects on mankind. Bees are extremely vital to the economy. “There will be bees that will be resistant 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 pollination ... 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 sorts – insecticides, stress, disease, and loss of food. The effects of a virus could be severe, according to Dr. Martin Tracey, professor of biology. “There will be bees that will be resistant 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 pollination ... 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 sorts – insecticides, stress, disease, and loss of food. The effects of a virus could be severe, according to Dr. Martin Tracey, professor of biology. “There will be bees that will be resistant 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 pollination ... 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 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. “[Someone] who we think 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.

“We put them through a worse-case scenario, which is up to our discretion,” Stone said. “We then let set their own pace. I may move quickly, but I promise you won’t regret me in the morning. I’m a morning person.”

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

As the feline invasion of the Internet progresses, many users’ favorite day of the week is changing from Saturday to “Caturday.” “Caturday” is a certified Internet phenomenon also known as “LOLCats.” It consists of cat images superimposed with large font text to act as a caption.

The fact that the site has its own unique rules of grammar and a clearly defined history cause “Caturday” to be nothing short of its own online community.

The captions on LOLCat images take various forms.

One of the most common is “IN UR [blank], STEALIN’ UR [blank].” In these cases the term “UR” is of course a short hand substitute for “your.”

The captions are tailored to what action the cat is performing in the picture. This is meant to elicit a humorous response.

For example, a cat sitting on a book would be in the book, and the caption would be that the cat is stealing the book’s words.

Another common form of LOLCats is the “INVISIBLE” image. In these images, an animal – occasionally one other than a cat – making seemingly random movements can be imagined doing a human task after reading the caption.

Cats jumping a certain way can be imagined to be playing the game Wii.

The story goes that a Wii console with the caption “INVISIBLE WII TENNIS.” Any images that refer to cheeseburgers are paying homage to what is believed to be the very first LOLCat image of a very fluffy cat inquiring “I Can Has Cheeseburger?”

There are even images where cats look like celebrities like the hosts of the popular television program Mythbusters or famed businessman Donald Trump. The cats can be found on the Facebook pages of many students who have added the popular LOLCat application.

The widespread appeal of the cats and the preciseness of the type of spelling used can be seen in the LOLCat Bible Translation Project, a collaborative effort to translate the entire bible into LOLCat language located at lolcatbibble.com.

An excerpt from Genesis: “Oh hai. In teh beginnin Ceiling Cat maded teh skiez.” How adorably sacrilegious.

Ceiling Cat is a particularly famous LOLCat who appears in images peeking through a hole in a house ceiling, and who logically plays the role of God in the LOLCat Bible translation.

As is appropriate for a fad with origins in the tech world, many LOLCat images invoke technology references, including one with a cat peeking out from under a computer saying “I upgraded your RAM,” referring to random access memory. A later spin-off shows an actual ram, appearing as the animal instead of a cat, with the same caption.

Though LOLCat speak is a fairly well-established language, variations are allowed when necessary to create a funny image.

One very clever image shows a cat on top of a telephone which reads: “keep it down; I’m on the phone!”

“Caturday” has the cuteness that would appeal to mothers but with a tradition rooted in technical jargon and Internet references to make it appeal to the Internet underground as well.

How do the cats feel about all of this? Ask the one who is given the caption: “I’m just a cat. Stop anthropomorphizing [giving human traits to] me.”

Check them all out at www.icanhascheezburger.com.

Upcoming March flicks offer fat boys, elephants

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 bit 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 apocolypic (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 “How The Grinch Stole Christmas,” most of the big screen adaptations of Seuss’ classic children’s stories have been unable to capture the magic the books have.

“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.

The story should be familiar to anyone who grew up with Seuss’ books. To recap, Horton is an elephant who discovers a tiny speck of dust which is home to an entire civilization. Only he can hear them due to his large elephant ears.

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

DRIBBET TAYLOR (MARCH 21)

Is there a more unlikely actor right now to play a tough guy body-guard named Drubbett than Owen Wilson? He’s got to be the only guy in history to have a permanently broken nose and still come off as completely unthreatening.

Still, with a script co-written by Seth Rogen and a production credit from Jud Apatow, “Drubbett Taylor” will hopefully be able to deliver some of the Wittiness that has made Rogen and Apatow’s previous collaborations so successful and enjoyable.

RUN, FAT BOY, RUN (MARCH 28)

While the title might appeal to some in the audience who are sensitive about their figure, this new movie from first time director David Schwimmer (Best known as Ross Gellar from Television’s “Friends”) isn’t looking to offend.

Rather, it’s a romantic comedy starring Simon Pegge of “Shaun Of The Dead” and “Hot Fuzz.”

Pegg’s character isn’t fat, but when compared to his ex-dance’s new boyfriend (Hank Azaria), he certainly seems so.

Due to this, and the fact that he still feels for his ex (Thandie Newton), he finds himself feeling inadequate and begins trying to one up Azaria’s character.

This culminates in the two competing in the London Marathon. Pegg has shown brilliant comedic abilities in his previous films, which he co-wrote, but it remains to be seen how he can do someone else’s script and characters.

21 (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 bookies 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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Crisco 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 newest album, lineup changes, and how they went on a tour with 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?

Will Swan (Guitar): There really wasn’t any 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 a 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 tripped him out with two other people that came along 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: We’ve got five songs done. We don’t have a mark for how 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 a jump for your van. [The cops came as]..."

Mingus: The Netherlands... yeah I 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 up on gold foil so it would flex.

When hardcore band Poison the Well took the stage on Feb. 22 at Ft. Lauderdale’s Culture Room nightclub, it was a miracle that everyone that in the building left with all their limbs intact.

The Hidaleah natives took the stage after performances by New York punk band Crime in Stereo, post-hardcore rockers Dance Gavin Dance and Christian metalcore quintet The Chariot.

The Culture Room was still practically empty when Crime in Stereo began the show with a ho-hum performance that featured songs from their most recent album, “Crime in Stereo is Dead”, as well as some older material. The lackluster performance could most likely be blamed on a sub-par microphone set up. Lead singer Kristian Hallbert’s voice was audible, yet a bit muffled, making the band’s lyrics incomprehensible. Nonetheless, die-hard ‘Stereo’ fans jammed all around the pinning singer along with Hallbert at the top of their lungs.

Dance Gavin Dance took the stage shortly after ‘Stereo’ as the Culture Room finally began to fill out. Gavin recently underwent a lineup change after the departure of former vocalist, Johnny Craig, and some fans had expressed some uncertainty about the ability of new vocalist Kurt Travis.

Soon enough, their worries evaporated as Gavin began their act with an incredible performance of their song “And I Told Them I Invented Times New Roman.” The concert’s first moosh pit was born as Travis waved the crowd with his energetic, high-pitched vocals and his unexpected acrobatics, doing a handstand on stage. Gavin went on to perform two new songs from their upcoming album. As Gavin made their exit,The Chariot started setting up their equipment and the Culture Room suddenly became much tighter as crowd control was implemented, 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 CD’s. Some got to take picture with their favorite band members while others went home to nurse their wounds.

She inked the peace and all this…"

Garren: I think Superman would win. He’d have the kryptonite. Superman would take out Spider-Man and while he’s doing that, Batman would get the kryptonite.

Mingus: Lil’ Wayne, as always.

Mess: But the gadgets would just bounce right off Superman.

Swan: Well, I was just kind of envisioning the actors who play them.

Garren: I think Superman would win.

Swan: I think Batman would win. He’d have the kryptonite. Superman would take out Spider-Man and while he’s doing that, Batman would get the kryptonite.

"Swan: And we actually named the album before we found that artwork, which is weird because it’s [a drawing of] a downtown. 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 Feb. 4. What happened?

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: Lil’ Wayne as always.

The Beacon: Who would win in a fight: Spider-Man, Batman or Superman?

Lodge: I don’t think Spider-Man would win.

Mingus: I think Superman. Superman is heavier than Spider-Man.

The Beacon: What’s on your indie scene? Have you listened to any other bands?

Swan: I’ve got too much stuff to name. I was just listening to the “Lost Boys” soundtrack because there’s a scene in the “Lost Boys” where there’s like a super muscular guy singing “I Still Believe”..."

Zack Garren: Batman would probably use his gadgets and stuff.

Mess: But the gadgets would just bounce right off Superman.

Swan: Well, I was just kind of envisioning the actors who play them.

Garren: I think Superman would win.

Swan: I think Batman would win. He’d have the kryptonite. Superman would take out Spider-Man and while he’s doing that, Batman would get the kryptonite.

TWO STEPPIN’: Will Swan (Right) of Dance Gavin Dance performed at a boxed house at the Culture Room in Ft. Lauderdale on February 22, 2008.
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Now your chance Save 15% off cosmetics, fragrances and other Macy's purchases for two days when you open a Macy's Account. Exclusions apply. Subject to credit approval.
Slow offensive start, free throws sink team at home

By Victoria Lynch

The Golden Panthers fought off a very slow start, which carried over into the second half, by generating a late run.

After a Hilltopper basket made the score 51-33 in their favor with 13:55 left to play, FIU had its best stretch of the game and closed to within nine points.

WKU then put the game out of reach with five consecutive points.

Rouco believes the Golden Panthers need to play at that level consistently to have a chance against a team like WKU.

“I thought we played very hard the second half, but to beat the best one or two teams in the league, you cannot turn the ball over so many times and let them get easy baskets,” Rouco said. “I thought we came out not as aggressive as we did the second half, and they came out more aggressive than we did.”

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.

“Were 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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FACE TO FACE: Sophomore Erick Nsangou attempts to set the offense against Western Kentucky.
Baseball suffers worst loss of season

Baseball Notebook

Senior pitcher makes baseball team in final academic year

TAKING ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

Opening night game on Feb. 22 drew an attendance of 1,057, which was good enough to rank second on FIU’s all-time list for home opener games since 1996. The best attendance was a game in 2006 against the University of Miami, which had an attendance of 2,112.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Through Feb. 26, freshman utility man Javier Sujo was batting .500 with four hits, a home run and three RBI. He blasted a pinch-hit solo home run in his first at bat as collegiate athlete.

The FIU reliever Jorge Marban appeared twice in the opening weekend series and threw two scoreless innings. He is currently the only Golden Panther reliever yet to surrender a run.

Forward fights foul trouble, scores 25

WOMEN’S, page 16

ing as sophomore guard Kenzie Rich knocked down a three-pointer to put WKU up by five. Another basket by the team recorded two hits against FGCU.

As the Golden Panthers head into the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, they’ll need to be ready for anything.

WE SAW IT FORECASTED

Staff Writer

As the team recorded two hits against FGCU.

Designated hitter Tyler Townsend makes an out as the Beacons recorded two hits against FGCU.

First Impression

“Kimmy is a real athlete,” said coach Randy Grimes. “She’s a tough team, and mentally we broke them.”

Senior pitcher makes baseball team in final academic year

WE SAW IT FORECASTED

The Golden Panthers also had hopes for Carlos as Danny, who’s also a right-hander, has yet to pitch in a live game.

Cardinals suffer worst loss of season

FORKING OUT: Junior Arrojo.

The FIU bullpen surrendered nine runs, including three two-run home runs by the Eagles.

The Golden Panthers also committed three errors – two committed by sophomore shortstop Junior Arrojo.

Eagles starter Woodworth pitched six strong innings, striking out six and allowing only one run, which came off of a Ryan Mollica RBI single in the 5th inning.

The only other FIU hit was a single by catcher Kevin Minarich in the 3rd inning.

“We didn’t come out with much energy and enthusiasm for the fifth game of the year,” Thomas said.

Baseball Notebook

Senior pitcher makes baseball team in final academic year

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

**SWEET AND SOUR**

Team wins first game of season, routed in next game

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**Men's Basketball**

**Western Kentucky: 69, FIU: 54**

Sophomore Sergio Ramos started for the Golden Panthers and pitched an effective five innings, allowing four hits, two runs (one earned) and three walks, while recording five strikeouts.

"He gave us five good innings," Thomas said. "You know like in football they say, 'Bend, don't break.' That's kind of what he did."

Senior Corey Lozano got things rolling for FIU with a solo home run in the first inning off Barry pitcher Mike Tomoleoni to put the Golden Panthers up 1-0. After Barry scored a run in the second and third innings to tie it up 1-1, FIU scored three runs on three hits to take a 4-1 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 Rainy 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 relievers Evan Ellison and Carlos Martinez.

The inning was capped by a grand slam by right fielder John Servidio to put Barry up 10-9. Barry's one-run lead disappeared in the bottom half of the inning as the Golden Panthers rallied behind baskets from Bosilj and juniors Iva Ciglar and Jasmine Jenkins 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 shooting against Western Kentucky.

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**Women's Basketball**

**Western Kentucky: 79, FIU: 56**

The Lady Toppers were led by pre-season conference MVP senior forward Crystal Kelly, who scored a game-high 28 points.

Sophomore guard Monika Bosilj came out firing by hitting a pair of 3-pointers, which came within 20 seconds of each other. WKU answered back immediately and the teams traded leads during the first ten minutes of play.

Down 26-20 with eight minutes left in the first half, FIU rallied behind baskets from Bosilj and juniors Iva Ciglar and Jasmine Jenkins to cut the Lady Toppers lead to two points.

The Lady Toppers wasted no time responding...