Nelson Hernandez
Contributing Writer

Sarah Swartz might look familiar to many of students at FIU. The striking advertising major broke out on the Bravo network series “Make Me a Supermodel,” though she’s been in the modeling and advertising industries for some time now.

She’s a west coast native, born in Seattle and brought up by her mother, whom she “credits with her ambition and determination,” according to her spot on the Bravo site. Family has been Swartz’s passion, with everything from her trips to her experiences on the show leading back to some description of her family life, her mother being the most prominent.

The self-described “jet setter” prefers the stateside feeling. “I could never live in L.A. in the summer, a “paradise” as she called it, she said, “I would miss being separated from my family and friends”, she said, “but I still loved being in New York.”

Swartz has realized the exposure is incredible,” she said, “though it hasn’t anything more than a scoping opportunity. If anything, the loss has made her even more determined to make a name for herself.

On the subject of celebrity, Swartz shies away but mentions, “Tyson [Beekford] and Niki [Taylor] are great, plus I’m still in touch with my housemates.”

The friendship aside, the show has featured some interesting challenges. The first episode in Times Square featured Sarah pulling off the summer fashions … in the middle of one hell of a New York winter.

“That was terrible, but the hardest challenge was being separated from my family and friends”, she said, “but I still loved being in New York.”

Nelson Hernandez
Contributing Writer

Student model goes prime time

Christina Vega
Chris Cabral
Beacon Staff

The University Fee Committee approved an increase last week in the Athletics fee students pay to make up for a $3 million deficit in the department’s budget.

“I am pleased with the partnership that Athletics has developed with the student leadership that is evidenced by the meeting today and the vote,” said Julie Berg, senior associate athletic director.

The Athletics fee was already increased for the 2007-2008 academic year from $11.66 per credit hour, to $13.05. The latest increase will raise the fee by $1.46 per credit hour, placing FIU second in the state for the highest Athletics fee according to documents provided by FIU.

“The committee, comprised of faculty, administrators and Student Government Council representatives from University Park and the Biscayne Bay Campus, approved the increase six to two,” Berg said.

SGC-BBC representatives were the only committee members to vote against the increase.

Katiana Saintable, SGC-BBC president and Jonathan Doozan, finance chairperson, voted against the proposal. Athletics is in desperate need,” Saintable said. “But what we’re provided with is not sufficient to go against the wishes of those who put me in this position.”

According to Doozan, the committee was not given detailed information about Athletics’ current budget. He felt that reducing costs within the current budget might have been a better option than raising student fees.

“We have no idea what the real costs are,” Doozan said. “There is no way I could possibly make an educated decision.”

The committee held hearings last month for the University community to voice concerns about the increase, however, few students showed up. “Students at FIU are masochists,” said SGC-UP President Marbely Hernandez. “You can poke them and poke them and they won’t move because they have a comfortable seat.”

Athletics Director Peter Garcia confirmed the lack of comment on the part of FIU students.

“We haven’t gotten any negative phone calls,” Garcia said.

Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs and Undergraduate Education, will now review the proposal before it reaches University President Modesto Maimique.

Maimique has the ultimate say and if approved, the increase will take effect Fall 2008.
New sorority will join Greek community

by Ashley Artiles
Staff Writer

For 20 years, the Panhellenic Council has helped more than 1,000 female students involved in Greek life and now, they will help more. With nine potential organizations submitting their requests to join the council this year, the governing council of sororities at FIU announced that it will be expanding.

Of the nine organizations, only four were chosen to make a presentation during February and March to begin a new sorority at FIU. The four potential organizations include Alpha Phi, Delta Delta Delta, Sigma Kappa and Alpha Gamma Delta. Only one organization will be chosen to begin its colony at the University.

This year the council’s cabinet members will work with many of FIU’s offices such as the Women’s Center to plan “Take Back the Night,” an event designed to help more.

Recruitment is a seven day process where registered women will meet the seven organizations and, by the end of the week, a mutual selection would be made. The new sorority that will be welcomed on April 1 will be taking part in this year’s recruitment; the organization will be acquiring its founding members.

“Recruitment is a week long process that is a great opportunity to get involved on campus and, in the future, for networking. It opens doors for you and gives you an opportunity to become an integral [part of] the FIU and Miami communities,” Feal said.

The Beacon – March 10, 2008 www.fi usm.com
Celebration of diversity: fighting discrimination on a divided front

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO  Staff Writer

The acronym “LGBTQ” is not as recognizable as the multicolored “gay pride” flag that graces our sidewalks after next week’s Pride Day, many homosexual students on campus hope it will be.

The Multicultural Programs and Services office is celebrating Pride Day as part of its “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer” outreach on campus. Set within the broader Diversity Week, MPAS hopes Pride Day will bring visibility to a group of students it feels have been left in the margins on campus.

“Pride Day is a celebration of diversity,” said Nadia Williams, graduate assistant of the LGBTQ initiatives in MPAS. “It is a reminder to everyone that we don’t discriminate on campus.

Activities include tabling at University Park and Bis- cayne Bay Campus and an exhibition displaying LGBTQ images in the GC Pit. All activities provide information for LGBTQ students and educate the FIU community on homosexuality.

“I feel like prejudice doesn’t have to always be in an extreme,” said Tanick Gaines, president of the LGBTQ organization at UP called Stonewall Pride Alliance. “There are very subtle things that can be very damaging to homosexual students.”

Stonewall, an organization that gathers “LGBTQ students and their allies,” generated attention a couple years ago after an incident of prejudice that was not so subtle. In 2006, Christian evangelists preached against homosexual “sinners” at UP.

The campus has quieted down since the initial counter-rallies that were initiated by students with makeshift cardboard signs that read “God does not discriminate,” in reaction to the anti-gay sermons that day. After the demonstrations, Stonewall petitioned for an LGBTQ resources center on campus.

The closest the University has come to such a center is Williams’ position as a graduate assistant in the MPAS office, which concentrates on LGBTQ issues. Currently, the office is writing a proposal to hire a permanent position at the office, Williams said.

Yet, the reason behind the campus’ overall indifference is perplexing for Gaines. She questions whether it exists because there is a “sort of live and let live” mentality on campus or because the “gay community has kind of assimilated into the campus populous.”

Either way, she explains that prejudice does exist in “whispers” spoken under a student’s breath or in the “feur of retaliation” that homosexuals believe they might inflect if they talk about their sexuality.

Fairell believes that homosexual isolation on campus depends on Universities and their level of conservatism. Fairell believes that society is influential in creating the “internalized homophobia” that many homosexuals carry with them.

“Society does not practice tolerance,” said a speaker of the House’s (Jennifer Ruiz): “It is a reminder to everyone that we don’t discriminate on campus.”

The Beacon – March 10, 2008 www.fi usm.com

Police Notes

• Feb 29: At 10:25 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the Green Library after receiving a call referring to a suspicious person in the area. The officer discovered student inside classroom 160, a computer room, wearing latex gloves and acting as if he had possible mental issues. He was not arrested but given a trespass warning from both campuses which he read and signed. He was also advised that if it was discovered that the computer had been damaged, he would be arrested.

• March 1: An FIU student reported to police that while she was on the first floor of the Chemistry and Physics Building, she observed two unknown suspects breaking into a computer operating machine. The two suspects stole money from the machine and damaged it. They fled in an unknown vehicle. An area canvass was conducted to locate the two suspects but was met with negative results. The victim of the burglary was notified on the phone.

For complete notes, visit www.fi usm.com

Published by FIU Student Media

SGC-UP Notes

Call to Order: 4:15 p.m.  Adjournment: 5:21 p.m.

President’s Report (Marbely Hernandez):
• Referendum on the SGC-UP constitution will take place March 12.
• Athletics fee increased by $1.46.

Vice President’s Report (Arthur “AJ” Meyer):
• Gracie’s Grill beautification underway; outside area has been repainted.
• Forum to take place to discuss how students can request to use the Athletics’ venues that are part of the Athletics partnership that was coupled with the Athletics fee increase.

Speaker of the House’s (Jennifer Ruiz):
• Harry Lee Anstead, a Justice of the Florida State Supreme Court, will be speaking on March 8 at 1 p.m. in the Raphael Diaz-Balart Law Building room 1009.

Academic Affairs:
• Mobile Campus cell phone initiative proposal being written. Bids will then be accepted from cell phone companies to provide the service outlined in the proposal which include mass text messages in the case of an emergency.

Compiled by Ben F. Badger Jr.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • MARCH 10

Mythical Women Monday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

Panther Rage General Meeting: 4 p.m., Graham Center 140

TUESDAY • MARCH 11

Transquil Tuesday Wellness Expo 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

LGBT Fag Bug: 11 a.m., Chapman Plaza (UP)

LGBT Pride Day: 2 p.m., Graham Center Pit

General Emerging Green Builders Meeting: 5 p.m. - 6 p.m., Dean’s Conference room on 2nd floor in Engineering Building

Movie Night: 7 p.m. - 11 p.m., WUC Theatre (BBC)

SPC UP- Female Orgasm
• 8 p.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

Deadline to Drop Class with a DR Grade

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 12

Wonderful Women Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

VEO: Money, Miami, and SES: 1 p.m., Graham Center 314

LGBT Pride Day: 2 p.m., Graham Center Pit

Asian Student Union General Meeting: 6 p.m., Gracies Grill

Women’s Forum: 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., (BBC)

THURSDAY • MARCH 13

SPC Irish Celebration: 12 p.m. - 2 p.m., Graham Center Pit

Take it Back Thursday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

STARS: Money in my Pockets: 2 p.m., Graham Center 216

Anything Goes Anime General Meeting: 3:30 p.m., Chemistry & Physics 197

Italian Club General Meeting: 3:30 p.m., Graham Center 150

SPC BBC Movie- “I am Legend:” 6 p.m., Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre (BBC)

Female Orgasm: 7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., WUC Theatre (BBC)

FRIDAY • MARCH 14

STARS: Financial Savvy: 1 p.m., WUC 253 (BBC)

ENGAGE Leadership Workshop: 12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m., Graham Center 305

SGA Scholarships Due: 5 p.m., Graham Center 211

SPC Movie: “I am Legend:” 7 & 10 p.m., Graham Center 140

Compiled by Kassandra Pool
Community raises funds for campus

ANA PEREZ
BBC Life Editor

The sounds of a harp fluttered around the entrance of the Wolfe University Center’s Ballroom as 150 community members awaited the start of a fund-raiser luncheon at Biscayne Bay Campus. BBC’s Vice-Provost Damian Fernandez hosted the event on March 6 to raise money for his future plans for BBC, which include opening a new dining facility in August, a refurbished Olympic-sized pool and start-to-finish programs that will allow students to complete their degree without traveling between the two campuses.

“Ladies and gentleman, the future is bright for this campus, and with your support I know we can help BBC reach its potential,” Fernandez said to the assembled crowd. “We will build on our 30 years of educational excellence.”

Fernandez anticipates that funds raised will allow students to conduct hands-on research projects that will motivate them to pursue graduate studies.

Rebecca Dinar, outreach coordinator for the vice provost, said the fundraiser will do more than just fill pools and dining halls.

“It’s also an opportunity to bring the community together to support public education in general and on this campus in specific,” Dinar said.

“Have we much more to do and for that we need partners as well as imaginations,” Fernandez said.

Swartz still hopes for modeling career

She plans on hanging around the south for a bit.

“I have the best weather, plus there’s always work available and I love Miami fashion week.”

When it comes to music, Swartz vacationed to New York and is just one example of the student potential to be successful in any field. If her exit video is any indication, the show was nothing more than a launch for her, not her final shot at the industry.

Swartz’s dream may include modeling, but it’s not her only aspiration.

“I love acting. I want to start classes to get into character. I feel too fake sometimes. Opening my own boutique would also be nice,” she said.

Like The Beacon?
Get more of it March 24th!

The Beacon goes thrice a week.

Ephniko crafts new take on old school hip-hop

ANTHROPOLOGY student, culture documentarian, lyricist and hip-hop artist, Alvaro Cuello, a freshman student at FIU has released his debut album titled “Escribo Lo Que Vivo,” which means “I write what I live” in Spanish in 2007.

It sends the message that “your own life should shape the change that you bring to this world,” said Cuello.

Cuello’s raps alias is Ephniko, an acronym for Eternally Producing History, Never Ignoring Knowledge. Ephniko defined his talent as ethnic.

“Ethnicity is the identity that you create who you are with and against the world. That’s what my art is, with and against the world,” Cuello said.

Anger, frustration and depression, during his teenage years prompted Cuello to begin writing music.

“I rose from my immigrant experience; the accommodation to what the US culture is like […] I rose to the need to put certain feelings on paper, and once I did that the understanding of those feelings became more intense,” said Cuello.

He shouldn’t get into the rap game, maybe more of a Reggaeton type of thing. I think the beats are just annoying; it takes away from what he is saying,” Vargas said.

“While some might not enjoy Cuello’s music, others such as senior Fuza Charles said his music is distinctive.

“It sounds like old school, like back in the 80s. It’s different. It sounds like he’s trying too hard, but I think his message is good,” said Charles, who is majoring in Marketing.

Previously, Cue traveled to South Africa to perform at the Battle of the Year, the world b-boy championship; he ended up collaborating with other artists, including Zuluboy, an African artist.

“It was a dope experience. I recorded a track out there with my man Zuluboy. It’s the first time you hear a track with Spanish and Zulu on the cut. I recorded like 12 tracks out there,” Cuello said.

Cuello wants to become a lector or a teacher and is studying anthropology to be able to bring his fieldwork to the academic world.

“Academically I want to get that institutional accreditation necessary for me to bring this into the higher learning system,” Cuello said.

Fernandez outlined a plan to develop an interdisciplinary coastal environmental initiative to encourage Florida’s future leaders are diverse and well prepared to address the state’s needs. He hopes to propel BBC in becoming one of the greenest campuses in the nation.

“We seek to encourage the community to learn more about the environment,” Fernandez said.

Attendees included mayors from Golden Beach, Sunny Isles, Bay Harbour and North Miami, as well as Ronald Berkman, FIU’s provost. “The state and the university have many significant challenges that we need to fix,” Berkman said. “Public education remains the core of the American dream and the core of the American prospect.”

Active BBC students were also present, ranging from David Fonseca, student environmental liaison, to BBC’s Student Government Council President Katiana Sainat. The understanding of those feelings on paper, and once I did...”

Fernandez hosted the event on March 6 to raise money for his first trip, I started doing a documentary type of work that goes along with it; pictures, interviewing, just really being able to write about the culture from the perspective of hip-hop,” he said.

Although Cuello is proud of his first album, he makes his debut album titled “Finding Forever” … I love the Shins’ “Wincing the Night Away” too. I’m big on Jack John-...”

Mandala moves on

Tibetan Monks finish their four-day andala painting and collect the remnants to disperse them in the waters behind Biscayne Bay Campus on March 6.

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Like The Beacon?
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The Clinton clout within the party has enabled her to rely on a full on offensive. The Florida Textbook Affordability Bill, if passed, will go into effect July 1. Legislation of this type is a well-composed change from the usual education-related legislation we have seen in the past few years; usually either collecting money for raised tuition or raising fees and taxes.

The notably high prices in the FIU Bookstore will become less costly. The lowered cost of books will be evened out by the buy-back cost being much higher when sold back to the store. This sort of legislation can make these savings possible.

A constant refrain among students is, “I need money,” but after the legislation’s pending approval, the financial stress on students about credit hour costs and book costs will be somewhat alleviated.

It’s atrocious that it takes state legislature to make campus bookstores provide this information rather than price gouging as if the bookstore was a source for water after a drought.

Possibly an unforeseen benefit will be that campus bookstores will be forced to compete with these third party prices — such as those of Amazon.com or Half.com — and provide the accessibility that lacks with these other retailers that keeps students coming back regardless of price.

The effective passage of this legislation becomes a win-win situation for students and bookstores alike if the aforementioned effects were to be realized.

The significance of the legislation is that students will be the primary beneficiaries rather than the administration or other secondary constituents of the State University System.

The bill is definitely progressing in terms of State University System reform and with all hope, will be passed and students can begin to reap the benefits of a slightly more affordable education.

Of the $200 million or so of the state’s total education budget, only $33 million is going toward the University System. University President Modesto Madrigal’s salary surpasses that of President George W. Bush by more than $10,000 according to CNN.com who reported Bush’s salary at $400,000.

Our football coach, Mario Cristobal is paid more than any other coach in the Sun Belt Conference — despite losing the most games according to his contract’s text.

Crist himself, being the perpetual optimist and fiscally blind man he is, said in his State of the State speech, “Pessimists see problems, optimists see opportunities. You know I am an optimist, but no matter what your perspective, we must dare to be great.”

It’s just inexcusable that the state doesn’t regulate how universities spend their allotted money; a system of analysis and lending based upon student needs from the state, so it’s up to the primary beneficiaries to impose some semblance of structure.

We were led to believe Crist was going to cleanup Florida; he promised us in 2008 the same things, but continued to cut and decrease the state’s budget. Where are the results? In our wallets and bank accounts, that’s where.

Joseph Marhee can be reached at Joseph.Marhee@fiu.edu.
The FIU Tennis Club, which has 30 active members, was created and recognized by the Student Organization Council in 1999. As of Fall 2007, all sports clubs under SOC became listed under the Student Organization Council. For instance, if player number 13 challenges player number 10 and wins, the result is player number 13’s new rank will be 10; men and women are ranked separately.

Every year the club participates in as many tournaments as possible in Florida. On March 1 through 2, the group will be heading to Daytona to compete in the Florida Championship against other club division players. In a previous competition, member Chris Whiffield placed third place. Although the group uses the FIU Tennis Courts, it is not always safe to play on the courts. Throughout previous years, members said co-president Maria Concha.

“We don’t have that because all the courts are in really bad condition.”

Other goals are to get competition uniforms and attract more female participants. For those male students seeking to join the University’s official tennis team, the club will have to suffice; FIU only has a Women’s team.

Meetings are held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the tennis courts located near the Pharmed Arena. Although the group meets three times a week, meetings are not mandatory. In order to become an official member, students have to pay a $10 membership fee.

For more information on the Tennis Club, e-mail FIUtennis@gmail.com or visit its Facebook group, FIU Tennis Club.

“[Tennis is] an environment where one could come and make friends and at the same time improve their athletic skills and health,” Caceres said.
STEAK FOR BREAKFAST
—MY KINDA MORNING.

new McSkillet Burrito

When I want a great breakfast, I grab steak and eggs McDonald's® style. With the new Steak McSkillet Burrito. It's loaded with sizzling steak, scrambled eggs, cheddar jack and American cheese, flame roasted red and green peppers, onions, salsa roja and skillet potatoes.
Recounting a tragic past

TAVIA LEVY
Contributing Writer

As a young girl, Sadae Kasaoka never dreamed that not having to go to school would save her life.

She had finished cleaning the house when the glass window turned red and exploded, knocking her unconscious.

When Kasaoka awoke she touched her face, only to have her hands come away with blood.

Frightened and knowing something horrible had occurred, she and her grandmother decided to go to the neighborhood air raid shelter.

After they thought it was safe, they left.

Kasaoka had just survived the atomic bomb, which the United States dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on Aug. 6, 1945.

Kasaoka, a hibakusha or, the radiated ones who were sent to help with the demolition work that week.

She was off from school because her class was given the chance to rest. She said, “If it wasn’t for God she wouldn’t be giving this speech today. So many people died and I could have been one of them.”

Kasaoka said the high tide helped the military soldiers collect the dead that washed down the rivers. She spoke passionately as she remembered the devastation she lived through.

She said after her older brother found them; he went looking for their father who he brought home on a cart the next day. She did not recognize her father upon seeing him.

His entire body was charred black, his lips were puffy and his eyelids were gone. She recognized him after only after he spoke what would be his last words, “Find your mother and give me water.” She and her grandmother cared for her dad, but they couldn’t do much.

She said, “We laid him on his stomach to ease the pain. It was horrible seeing my dominant father so helpless.” Kasaoka had heard that giving water to someone burnt that would horribly kill them.

She said, “It hurt her to lie to her dad. I told him the water was poisonous. We also tried to ease his pain by grating the juice of several vegetables on him. The juice dried so quickly that I decided to look in our garden to see what else we had. The only thing left were tomatoes. We thought they were the souls of the people. She imagined that the flames said, ‘I am so tired I want to get married or I wanted to finish school and get a job.’"
Sense of nostalgia brought by Final Fantasy creator

LUI S GARCIA  Staff Writer

Two decades ago, Hironobu Sakaguchi changed the very face of gaming when he created "Final Fantasy." Now, having left development house Square-Enix to form his new development house Mistwalker, Sakaguchi's second undertaking on the Xbox 360, "Lost Odyssey," serves as a reminder and tribute to the classic console role-playing games that many grew to love.

Kain has the stick figure’s training in the fighting style. Having served under the stick figure agent, he’s been handed a mission by his master to train the other stick figures. Kain, the stick figure master, has a mission to bring simplicity to the worlds of art. An artist who has been trained in the fight by the stick figures will soon learn to embrace their simplistic style.

Kain’s mission is not easy. There are stick figures back who will learn to embrace their simplistic style. Kain’s mission is not easy. There are stick figures back who will learn to embrace their simplistic style.

Your ultimate goal: defeat the cleverly named “Reds” – red versions of yourself.

You are instructed to infiltrate their base, destroying all “Reds” in your path.

There are three modes of gameplay and a dojo in which you learn the basics of moving and fighting.

Enter the dojo first for a brief overview and a chance to summon “Reds” at your will.

You can also practice your skills with grenades, mines and various other weapons. Take your time and get some practice before trying the other modes in the game.

Adventure mode is where you play through the actual story. It’s short, (very short) with only three levels, but definitely still worth your time.

Tournament and Survival modes are where you will spend most of your time, though.

Survival mode will test your skills in the arena, adding a new opponent every two seconds.

See how long you can stick it out and try to beat your best score.

In tournament mode, you will advance through different areas, with each area holding one more enemy than the last.

All three modes feature various arms such as nunchucks, swords and throwing stars, as well as health packs to help you along.

GAME Dynasty Street

Simplicity at its best; stick figures make a comeback

Stick figures haven’t always been seen in the brightest of lights.

For years, they have been a symbol of inadequacy in the world of art – an easy way out.

“Dynasty Street,” a flash fighting game from Dissolute Productions, is bringing stick figures back.

No longer will they be a blemish to the simplistic artist.

Stick figure enthusiasts the world over will soon learn to embrace their unique style and love them all to this great game.

In “Dynasty Street,” you play as a stick figure agent trained in the fighting style. The character you have been handed is by an unidentified agency.

On March 4, the DVD release of Noah Baumbach’s fourth feature length film, “Margot at the Wedding,” hit store shelves. Originally only shown at the Telluride, Toronto, and New York film festivals, the film had a very limited theatrical release in the U.S. in Nov. 2007.

The movie features stunning performances from Nicole Kidman in a surprising role as the misanthropic and shamelessly honest Margot, Jack Black as Margot’s sister’s emotionally disconnected fiancé and Jennifer Jason Leigh as Pauline, Margot’s free spirited sister.

The plot, albeit original, is simple: Margot, a writer, attends her estranged sister’s wedding but almost immediately begins planting seeds of doubt by pointing out Pauline’s quirks that may be signs of being a poor mate.

Margot and Pauline begin reverting to a child-like sibling rivalry: Margot cliffs a tall tree in the yard after Pauline more or less dares her and consequently, a rescue crew has to coax Margot down.

It’s refreshing to see a film that, while maybe reminiscent of any other sibling rivalry story, is so unforgivable in that the peripheral characters really pull the whole thing together.

Jack Black’s performance is hilarious: Malcolm, an unemployed artist who displays some autistic tendencies, constantly is changing the subject as if he were speaking with a tongue tied.

This film, despite its very original screenplay, is vaguely reminiscent of the French writer-director, Eric Rohmer (for his comic-relationship film "Le Genou de Claire"), the character-driven films often involve relationships, but with large amounts of awkwardness.

MOVIE Margot at the Wedding

Despite its limited release, film will make you say ‘I do’

JOSEPH MARHEE  Opinion Editor

Baumbach has skewed this formula by pushing the awkwardness to the max and incorporating it into a central part of Margot and Malcolm’s, with Pauline’s lackadaisical style to balance it out.

“Margot at the Wedding” displayed a huge stylistic shift in Baumbach himself.

His previous films, “The Squid and the Whale” and “Kicking and Screaming,” specifically, rely more on subtlety and the assumption that the audience is just as well-versed as the characters in the story.

With “Margot at the Wedding,” Baumbach’s work seems to have an easier-to-follow style and more recognizable actors, while retaining his ability to pen an almost irreverently original screenplay.

I strongly recommend the film for anyone who has seen any of Baumbach’s films, but for those new to his work, a better jumping off point might be 2005’s “The Squid and the Whale” or his 1994 critically acclaimed “Kicking and Screaming.”
SPORTS

MEN’S BASKETBALL

After defeating Florida Atlantic two times during the regular season, the Golden Panthers’ season came to an end on March 5, as they lost 91-64 in the opening round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

The loss was the team’s 20th of the season as they failed to reach double-digit wins this season.

The FAU Owls’ offense could not be stopped from anywhere on the floor. They shot over 50 percent from the field including 66 percent from three-point range.

In addition to the Owls’ prowess, they also out-rebounded the Golden Panthers 40-23.

Carderro Nwoji led all scorers while junior center Russell Hicks led the Golden Panthers with 18 points.

Carlos Monroe recorded a double-double by halftime; he headed into the second half with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The 3-point shot sank FIU early as the Owls hit their first four three-pointers, and they hit 7-of-11 during the first half.

For the Golden Panthers, 3-point shot was not as friendly. They shot 4-of-18 from three-point range.

Five minutes into the game, the Golden Panthers trailed 18-5. After losing by double digits for the majority of the game, FIU chipped its way close cutting the lead to eight with six minutes to play in the first half. Sean Alarcon and Nwoji helped the Owls rebuild the lead back to as many as 19.

The Golden Panthers came out the second half scoring the first four points, but Alarcon and Nwoji hit two three-pointers to dismiss the possibility of a late comeback.

Hicks did record four shot blocks to give him 60 on the year, which is a new school record.

Senior guard Chris Fuller played his last game for the Golden Panthers, but he did not score a point.

Junior guard Alex Galindo could not find the mark either as he shot just 3-of-11 from three-point range and 3-of-13 overall.

The Golden Panthers ties the second worst loss this season. The worst was against the University of Kentucky when they lost 92-49.

Compiled by Sergio Bonilla

SOPHOMORE AMONG OFFENSIVE LEADERS IN SUN BELT CONFERENCE

LUCA MESSINA
Staff Writer

Tyler Townsend was not going to stop playing, especially after an impressive freshman campaign in which he hit .338 with five home runs and 32 RBI. Despite his good numbers last season, Townsend’s nagging shoulder injury really kept him from reaching his full potential.

“In the beginning of the year, I felt I played really good and then I sort of dealt with injuries a little bit,” said Townsend, a sophomore from Lewes, Del. “I sort of backed off and didn’t finish as strong as I wanted to, but I felt that it was a pretty strong freshman season.”

After an off-season shoulder surgery to repair a torn labrum and a slightly torn rotator cuff, Townsend has responded with an impressive start to the young season. Just 11 games into the season, Townsend has hit five home runs and recorded 20 RBI.

Townsend also has the third best average on the team behind leader Jorge Castillo and Rainy Pena.

“I feel a hundred times better,” Townsend said.

Townsend has seen time at both designated hitter and at first base.

“I like playing first base a lot more ... You’re in the game more,” Townsend said. “At DH, you just sit there. At first base, you keep your blood flowing. I just like being a part of the game more.”

He is also aware of his hot start that has helped to carry the Golden Panthers to a decent start offensively.

“I’ve been seeing the ball real well so far, and I’m just trying to get as many RBIs as possible,” Townsend said. “I just want to help us win. If that’s what it takes, I’m going to keep on doing it.”

HOT HITTING: Sophomore Tyler Townsend has three home runs and 10 RBI through eleven games.

ALSO HITTING WELL

Senior first baseman Jorge Castillo is hitting well and now leads the team in hitting with a .450 average. He is currently on a six-game hitting streak. Castillo is second on the team with three home runs and third on the team with 10 RBI.

Welcome to the team kid

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

The baseball team has 17 new players on the 35-man roster. The list includes nine freshmen, two sophomore transfers, two junior transfers, one senior transfer, two first-year seniors and a sophomore who played his freshman year in 2006 but did not play in 2007.
Golden Panthers’ offense rebounds from first game

BASEBALL, page 12

scored four runs on three hits to go ahead for good 7-3. Freshman Jorge Marban allowed three earned runs, recording his first loss of the season.

FIU 13, MAINE 6

The Golden Panthers compensated for their weak offensive output in the first game by scoring 13 runs on 17 hits off of the Black Bears. The Black Bears jumped out to an early 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning off of starter Kyle Preshong. In the bottom half of the first inning, Townsend launched a two-run home run to left-center field to cut the score to 3-2.

Two batters later, Castillo put FIU ahead 4-3 with another two-run home run to right field off of Maine starter Joel Thorney.

Senior James Lajiness relieved Preshong in the top of the second inning only to allow a solo home run to designated hitter Kevin Jackson that tied the score 4-4.

Maine went ahead for the final time in the third inning after an RBI groundout by catcher Myckie Lugbaier.

The Golden Panthers responded with a three-run inning on two runs and an error.

FIU added on five more runs in the fifth inning to eventually win 13-6.

“I was pleased with how we did, even though [in] the last two or three innings we didn’t do anything offensively,” Thomas said.

Sophomore Daniel DeSimone earned his second save of the season after pitching three scoreless innings of relief.

Castillo finished 3-0 for the night, two RBI and two runs scored.

Basketball’s biggest fans: family members, band

packages, raffles, tailgate parties, contests and the jersey retirements of Raja Bell and Carlos Arroyo.

Only the jersey retirements seemed to have a positive effect on fan turnout. Many fans have a positive effect on fan turnout, but that is not to say that FIU students do not make a contribution to the basketball team.

Playing basketball in Miami also does not help the basketball team, because Miami is one of the most popular cities of the city. Students can enjoy such as going to bars or clubs. The bottom line is FIU students do not pay much attention to FIU sports.

Florida International University

Center for the Study of Spirituality

http://spirituality.fiu.edu

Judaic Studies Program

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March 12, 2008

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Graham Center 243

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The Beacon – March 10, 2008

www.fiusm.com

SUN BELT BASEBALL STANDING

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*All records up to date as of March 7, 2008

SUN BELT LEADERS

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| FIU Courtside Players perform at the Pharmed Arena.

The bottom line is FIU students do not pay much attention to FIU sports.

throughout the city that college students can enjoy such as going to bars or clubs.

The bottom line is FIU students do not pay much attention to FIU sports.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
Where is the support?

Lack of fans irks players, coaches

Cindy Russo has been coaching women’s basketball since 1977. During her tenure as head coach of FIU — 29 seasons — Russo has won over 600 games, an achievement that only 12 coaches before Russo have accomplished.

Russo shares a long history with FIU and the women’s basketball program, but when she walks onto the court before a game, even Russo feels discouraged when she looks into the crowd.

“Sometimes when I come out and we start a game, I have to hold back [a tear],” Russo said. “It is unfortunate that our students don’t support us and understand the combination of what we can do for them and what they can do for the school by filling this gym up and making a statement.

According to athletics director Pete Garcia, the attendance figures do not factor in fans who leave games early. This creates the illusion that the stands are empty throughout the game.

“When you get an attendance figure of X amount, it is all the fans that have come through the gate at some point during the game,” Garcia said. “One thing we have here is people who come in for a quarter or for a half then leave. They will come in [the game during] the second half when they were never here in the first half.”

At numerous women’s games this season, the lower bowl seats seem to have held less than 30 people, even when there was a double-header.

Senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson said she looks into the crowd. “Sometimes when I come out and we start a game, I have to hold back [a tear]. I want to choke up,” Russo said. “It is unfortunate that our students don’t support us and understand the combination of what we can do for them and what they can do for the school by filling this gym up and making a statement.”

Russo shares a long history with FIU and the women’s basketball program, but when she walks onto the court before a game, even Russo feels discouraged when she looks into the crowd.

“I have been here five years and it has not happened. I am not surprised; this is Miami. [Miami] is not really a basketball city. As long as there are a few faithful fans that come to every game, they are the ones who count.”

Senior Jasmine Jenkins contributed 11 points and eight rebounds in the team’s 68-57 victory over win over Denver on March 5. The full story is online at www.fiusm.com.