**Student model goes prime time**

**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 fashion and modeling 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 “dise” as she called it, she prefers the East coast. “New York is my favorite place to be.”

In order to qualify as a representative, students must have a minimum of 2 credits, be in good academic standing and have a comfortable seat. “I have not had four seats available I would still want 60 applications,” Ordoqui said.

In order to qualify as a representative, students must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. Also, 50 percent of a student’s classes must be at the campus they are applying to be a representative for.

The elections for these positions will take place April 1 and 2 through online voting, a first for SGA elections.

“Our priority is to make voting so much easier,” said Gerardo Gomez-Galvis, SGC-UP president and Jonathan Doozan, finance chairperson.

According to Gomez-Galvis, beta testing of the online voting system was conducted during the fall 2007 elections.

Students will be able to vote for their representatives as well as other SGA positions through their personal Panhouser accounts. “I hope [online voting] will increase participation,” Gomez-Galvis said.

Both commissioners commented that FIU students seem to display a level of apathy that prevents them from participating in SGA.

“Students feel like they can’t do it,” Ordoqui said. “But it’s easier than people think [to get involved in SGA].”

One incentive to becoming a representative is a stipend that many are unaware of, according to Gomez-Galvis. At UP, representatives receive a stipend of $437.50 during the Fall and Spring semesters. To receive the payment, representatives must complete five office hours a week in their respective office and attend weekly council meetings.

However, the stipend amount will vary depending on possible budget cuts, constitutional changes and funds allocated for the expense.

Ordoqui hopes online voting will at least double voter turnout.
New sorority
will join Greek
community

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
executive committee will work
with many of FIU’s offices
such as the Women’s Center
to plan “Take Back the
Night,” an event designed
to educate women against
sexual assault. The members
are also working with the
Center for Leadership
and Service to plan a Greek
night event designed
for networking. It opens
doors to the community
and, in the future,
become an integral part of the FIU
and Miami communities,” Feal
said.

Recruitment is the final
step in the expansion of
organizations submitting their
applications. The Beacon is an
independent newspaper
published weekly on
Mondays during the fall and
spring semesters and
biweekly during the summer.

To build leadership skills in
students, “Recruitment is a week
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 part of the
Council.”

The new sorority that will
be acquiring its founding
members.

The new sorority will be
hosting their events; the
organization will be taking
part in this year’s
recruitment; the organization
will be hosting the events and
collaborating with the
Panhellenic Council.

Recruitment is a week
long process that is a great
opportunity to get involved
in Greek life and, in the future,
become an integral part of the FIU
and Miami communities.”
PRIDE DAY

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 that988 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 Biscayne Bay Campus and an exhibition displaying LGBTQ images in the GC Pit. All activities aim to 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 Taniek Gaines, president of the LGBTQ organization at UP called Stonewall Pride Alliance. “There are very subtle things that can be very damaging to those 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 that the University has come to such a center is William’s position as a graduate assistant in the LGBTQ initiatives in MPAS. “It is a reminder to everyone that we don’t discriminate on campus.”

“Pride Day is a celebration of diversity. It is a reminder to everyone that we don’t discriminate on campus.”

— Nadia Williams, Graduate Asst. of the LGBTQ Pride Day

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 increase 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.

ANYTHING GOES ANIME GENERAL MEETING
3:30 p.m., Chemistry & Physics 197

NEWS

TUESDAY • MARCH 11

TRANQUIL TUESDAY WELLNESS EXPO
9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Panter Plaza (BBC)

LGBTQ FAB 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)

SFC-UP: FEMALE ORGASM
8 p.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

DEADLINE TO DROP CLASS WITH A DRG RACE

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 12

WONDERFUL WOMEN WEDNESDAY:
11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Panter Plaza (BBC)

VEO: MONEY, MIAMI, AND SES:
1 p.m., Graham Center 314

LGBTQ PRIDE DAY:
2 p.m., Graham Center Pit

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

WOMEN’S FORUM:
7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. (BBC)

THURSDAY • MARCH 13

SGC IRISH CELEBRATION:
12 p.m. - 2 p.m., Graham Center Pit

TAKE IT BACK THURSDAY:
11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Panter Plaza (BBC)

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

INVESTIGATE LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP:
12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m., Graham Center 305

SFC-UP: I AM LEGEND:
7 p.m. - 10 p.m., WUC Theatre (BBC)

FRI YDAY • MARCH 14

STARS: My Pocket’s:
2 p.m., Graham Center 216

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIP MEETING:
5 p.m., Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre (BBC)

FEMALE ORGASM:
7 p.m. - 10 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

SFC-UP: I AM LEGEND:
7 & 10 p.m., Graham Center 140

Compiled by Ben F. Badger Jr.
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 that will motivate them to pursue graduate studies.

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

“It’s also a fun opportunity to bring the community together to support public education in general and on this campus in specific,” Dinar said. “This is the first time we do this and we are using FIU’s 30th anniversary to raise money and awareness about BBC.”

Fernandez outlined a plan to develop an interdisciplinary coastal environmental initiative to ensure 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 renews the core of the American dream and the core of the American prospect.”

Active FIU students were also present, ranging from David Fonseca, student environmental liaison, to BBC’s Student Government Council President Katiana Sainaita.

Although the exact amount of money raised is still being tallied, Dinar is hopeful of the outcome while Fernandez is eager to begin new projects.

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

Ephniko crafts new take on old school hip-hop

SHERVIN BAIN
Contributing Writer

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 rap 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, who moved to the United States from Barranquilla, Columbia in 1992.

Ephniko started in the hip-hop culture as a break-dancer also known as b-boy, but soon transitioned from dancer to rapper. “I’ve been traveling, and since the first trip, I started doing a documentary type of work that goes along with it: pictures, interviews, just really being able to write about the culture from the perspective of hip-hop,” he said.

Although Cuello is proud of his album’s unique feel, George Vargas, a sophomore majoring in 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.
CON MAN CRIST

The Florida Textbook Affordability Bill may benefit students, bookstore as well

The Florida Textbook Affordability Bill, if passed, will go into effect July 1. Legislation of this type is a welcomed 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 notoriously high prices in the FIU Bookstore will now be of little to no consequence if this legislation passes; the less informed students will be able to benefit from knowledge of third party book stores (like that across I-75 after FIU) or even online retailers for cheaper, new and used books.

In the long run, the perpetual cycle of being dragged back books to the bookstore will become less costly.

The lowered cost of books will allow 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 books 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 the bookstore.

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 little more affordable education.

Joseph Marhee can be reached at Joseph.Marhee@fiu.com

Textbook Affordability Bill may benefit students, bookstore as well

JOSPEH MARHEE
Opinion Editor

On March 4, Governor Charlie Crist gave the state of the state speech, which was presented on the local National Public Radio affiliate. The event saw Gov. Crist espouse his grandiose plans for Florida’s future. Between being a shill for Publix and talking about the “recent” trend in childhood obesity, he managed to discuss the housing crisis and budget cuts for education among the more pressing issues for the last few minutes of his address.

It was quite a performance, until 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 the way to June’s Puerto Rican primary.

The Clinton campaign realized that it has lost the battle of self-identity through various rebrandings from “hope” to “experience” and so on. It now must rely on a full on offensive.

If Clinton really wants to make a serious attempt in capturing the nomination, she will have to rely on attack ads in order to capture the few states that could lean in her favor, and primarily in Pennsylvania, the largest state left to distribute delegates and to win by large margins.

Clinton will need to bank on the hope that she could pull enough large margins of victory in the states she does win in order to convince the super delegates that she is a better choice.

Clinton’s dirty campaign may alleve several key groups of Democratic voters, however, including youths and others who are first-time voters energized by the message of the Obama campaign.

To add further drama to an already dramatic nomination process are the two variables of Michigan and Florida. On the one hand, her tactic relies on strict adherence to party rules, allowing the super delegates free reign to vote as they see fit.

Yet to allow either state’s delegates to be counted in the final delegate count would require a tremendous breach of party regulations.

Clinton’s clout within the party has enabled her push, which I seriously doubt would have been allowed for Sen. Obama.

For many reasons, her campaign can only succeed within the framework of mudslinging tactics and fighting tooth and nail.

Either Sen. Obama could get the nomination based on his superior numbers in the pledged delegate count or Sen. Clinton could grasp the nomination based on a hard fought and busy campaign and dealings with the party insiders in the super delegate count, resulting in the disfranchisement (and disillusions) of the Obama movement.

In his return from exile, Napoleon reinstalled his former role and continued to battle to the rest of Europe. This period was known as the “Hundred Days,” the period of time between Napoleon’s resurgence to power and his final defeat.

Only time will tell if this period now up to the Denver convention will be Clinton’s “Hundred Days”.

Christian Martinez serves as the Vice President of the FIU College Democrats.
Erotic museum arouses artistic interest

"We have every level of [player], [some] just picking up a racket, and we have players like our number one ranked guy who plays outside the University," Caceres said.

The club has its own ranking system where each member can challenge up to two players above them. For instance, if player number 13 challenges player number 10 and wins the match, player number 13's new rank would 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 Whiffled 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 of the Tennis Club have attempted to get the Recreation Center to fix the courts because they are hard to play on and someone could eventually hurt themselves, according to Caceres.

The group feels very strongly that their attempts to have the courts and nets fixed has gone unnoticed due to funds being allocated for the football stadium.

"Our goal for the future is to be able to hold tournaments at FIU and we can't do that if we don't have courts available," 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.

STEAK

^ McSkillet

new 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, was 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 remembered that her fellow schoolmates in junior high 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, “We laid him on his stomach to ease the pain. It was horrible seeing my dear 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. The juice dried so quickly – others were there. She saw a blue flame would come out of the burning bodies.

She thought they were the souls of the people. She imagined that the flames said, “I want to get married or I wanted to finish school and get a job.”

Kasaoka told her story at the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and FIU.

Her father soon died from lack of medical attention.

They took his body to the beach and cremated it. Kasaoka’s family was not alone, – others were there. She saw a blue flame would come out of the burning bodies.

She thought they were the souls of the people. She imagined that the flames said, “I want to get married or I wanted to finish school and get a job.”

Kasaoka’s family picked up her younger brother who was evacuated to the countryside with the other children.

She has suffered numerous illnesses and, for years, she had sores come up on her body.

She said people thought it was poison. She was discriminated against in finding employment and getting married.

She said, “Back then, [people] thought she would negatively affect their health.”

Kasaoka eventually married a fellow hibakusha. He died from cancer at age 35.
GAME

Lost Odyssey

Sense of nostalgia brought by Final Fantasy creator

LUIS GARCIA
Staff Writer

Two decades ago, Hironobu Sakaguchi changed the very face of gaming when he created “Final Fantasy.” Now, having left developer 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.

Kaim Anzu, the fighter who’s about 1,000 years old, seeks to regain his past as advances in technology and magic, along with political unrest and three nations embroiled in war, threaten to destroy the world. Taking a darker, more serious tone as opposed to Mistwalker’s “Blue Dragon,” “Lost Odyssey” spans a massive tale of life, death, betrayal and joy throughout four discs.

While the overall story is good on its own, the true driving force of the story is Kaim’s personal trial of rediscovering lost memories. These episodic interludes are written by acclaimed novel Kiyoshi Shigematsu (with translation by Jay Rubin), providing the emotional crux for “Lost Odyssey’s” tragic hero. Anyone familiar with old-school console RPGs will feel right at home with the gameplay.

Traditional turn-based combat rules the day with a few strategic touches. Immortals can gain new skills and abilities while mortals simply need to level up. Immortals can also self-recover if they fall whereas mortals require resurrection. Party formation is also important: front-row fighters act as a damage role can interfere with spell casting time, and a simple buffer for the back row; attacks to the back row can interfere with spell casting time, thus making party form a key factor in victory. Characters can be further customized through equipment and rings. With a simple press and release of the right trigger during an attack, rings can bestow additional effects.

Although simple enough and offering nothing novel, the game play is executed with solid results and balances simplicity, strategy and challenge.

Also, “Lost Odyssey’s” visuals are a feast for the eyes. While occasional frame rate hiccups are occasional in some events, the game is, for the most part, beautiful.

Accompanying the lush eye candy, famed composer Nobuo Uematsu (also of “Final Fantasy” accolade) delivers a top-notch soundtrack that breathes more life into the game’s world. The voice work for the characters does a fine job of not sounding too cheesy and Japanese dialog is also available.

“Lost Odyssey” does not seek to reinvent the wheel in any way. Rather, it is a testament to the old-school RPGs and strategy and challenge.

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 can 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 asunchucks, swords and throwing stars, as well as health packs to help you along.

Baumbach has skewed this formula by pushing the awkwardness to the max and incorporating it into a central part of Margot and Malcolm’s parts, 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-read as the characters in the story.

With “Margot at the Wedding,” Baumbach’s work seems to have an easier-to-follow story and more recognizable actor, 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.”

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 sham be brought to the simplistic artist.

Stick figure enthusiasts the world over will soon learn to embrace their unique style for life and they owe it all to this great game.

In “Dynasty Street,” you play as a stick figure agent trained in the fighting who has been handed a mission 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 festival, 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 redefining a child-like sibling rivalry: Margot clings to 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 unfamilial 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 the whole time.

This film, despite its very original screenplay, is vaguely reminiscent of the French writer-director, Eric Rohmer, whose film “Le Genou de Claire” (with translation by Jay Rubin), providing the emotional crux for “Lost Odyssey’s” visual component.

Not only is “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-read as the characters in the story.

With “Margot at the Wedding,” Baumbach’s work seems to have an easier-to-follow story and more recognizable actor, 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.”

“Dynasty Street” is a simple game that offers pure, simple fun.

Yes, it is short, but the game looks and plays great with the sounds of The Prodigy, creators of the popular title “Smack My Bitch Up,” playing throughout.

You might be surprised at just how quickly you get hooked.

Shock yourself at www.newgrounds.com, where you can find the game - for free.
SPORTS

The Beacon – March 10, 2008

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 outrebounded 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, the 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 inched 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

BASEBALL NOTEBOOK

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 Rainey Pomes.

“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

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.

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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, but that is not to say that FIU fans do not help the basketball team.

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Not responsive to requests for additional information and to fill out an application.

Photographers Needed. Bob Knight Photo is currently hiring part-time photographers to work local college and high school graduation ceremonies in May, June, August, and December. Applicants must understand basic digital SLR cameras.

We have plenty of work throughout May but all photographers need to be available on weekends in May and the first week of June. Pay is $50.00 per event. Please visit www.bkhire.com <http://www.bkhire.com/> for additional information and to fill out an application.

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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.

“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 they are the ones who count.

“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,” Ferguson 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.

Some people may be quick to point a finger at the FIU Athletics department and blame them for the poor turnout at games. However, the marketing and ticket sales departments have made efforts to increase fan turnout with special ticket offers.

Bullpen loses game in eighth, despite starters’ quality outing

The Golden Panthers (5-6) once again split a pair of weekday games on March 4-5, falling to Boston College (5-3) 7-3 in a close game and defeating the University of Maine (4-5) 13-6 at University Park Stadium.

“We got to figure things out a little bit better,” said coach Turtle Thomas. “I think we’re starting to figure out our bullpen a little bit more. We got just to adjust to that higher level of competition.”

The Eagles jumped out to an early 2-0 lead after designated hitter Mike Augustine hit a two-run home run in the second inning that was just a little too far for the outstretched glove of FIU right fielder Javier Sujo.

FIU responded in the bottom half of that frame as sophomore Tyler Townsend launched a solo home run to left field off of Eagles starter Nick Asselin.

Stewart was making his second start as a Golden Panther.

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