Students still waiting for repairs at BBC’s Aquatic Center

Samir Ahmed
Staff Writer

Benny Michel Smeds has been wanting to use the Bis-
cayne Bay Campus Aquatic Center pool but he won’t be
making a splash anytime soon — it’s still closed for repairs.

“I feel very disappointed, the pool was open for anyone to view, but the event advertised was private and required approval to attend, according to Betancourt.”

Venezuela stuns; community rejoices

Jamie Rodriguez
Staff Writer

As business major Andres Gomez tries to start studying for his midterm exam, he can’t help but constantly check his laptop for the latest news.

“We have to be updated, it affects us students tremendously,” said Venezuelan-born Gomez.

“The newly found optimism for the Latin FIU community came after Chavez had deployed 10 army battalions to the Colombian border in the wake of Colombia’s March 1 raid on a rebel camp inside Ecuador which killed one of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia’s (FARC) most important officials, prompting Quito and Caracas to suspend relations with Bogotá. The three countries resolved the dispute at a Latin American summit in Santo Domingo earlier this month, with Colombia promising never to repeat such a raid again. Chavez, who only days earlier had been feeding the fires, intervened during the summit to ease regional tensions and set himself up as the agent of peace.”

The reconciliation dissolved tensions between not only students from Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela but from other nations as well.

“It is definitely bad. War and conflict are always bad. But Colombia is our main ally in Latin America and we must support them now,” said engineering student Andy Nguyen.

High and dry

Due to the erosion of the above ground piping, the pool at BBC’s Aquatic Center has been closed for over two semesters.

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Buchanan: candidates “shot themselves in the foot”

“When we received this decision we were a bit shocked,” Betancourt said. “The charges brought against us are so far-fetched.”

According to section XV of the Elections code, “campaigning prior to the designated starting dates,” may result in immediate disqualification.

The fact so many people could have potentially viewed the page made it violate the subsection stating “multiple violations of posting policy, as deemed by the Student Elections Board,” as grounds for disqualification.

However, Betancourt said the page was vague and the information on the page was only understandable to people who knew they were running and already supported them. “I would have loved to see them run. I would have loved to see more people involved with elections,” Buchanan said.

“There is still a free and fair election between two very qualified parties. I wish there were still three, but [Betancourt and Olmedo] shot themselves in the foot.”

According to Buchanan, the only thing the Facebook page did not list was that Betancourt and Olmedo were actually running for president and vice president. However, Buchanan argues that given the information listed on the page, anyone viewing it could only conclude Betancourt and Olmedo were running for president and vice president, since they are the only positions in the SGC-UP that run together.

The page is no longer available for viewing.

Betancourt has filed an official appeal of the decision, stating that proper procedure was not followed in issuing the disqualification.

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A major point of the appeal is Betancourt was not given 24 hour notice or a hearing for the disqualification.

But according to Buchanan and Ordoqui, given the nature of the code violations, a 24 hour notice was not necessary, and the disqualification was within the authority of the elections commissioner and judicial chair.

Betancourt also filed a complaint against Ordoqui, citing that his being a PIKE fraternity member has made him partial toward AJ Meyer, who is also running for SGC-UP president and a PIKE member.

“The only thing keeping us from running is this decision,” Betancourt said. “We are going to do everything in our power to get elected.”

The appeal by Betancourt was still being considered by Lumsford at the time of publication.

Visit www.fiusm.com to view disqualification letter, Facebook page administered by Benacourt and Olmedo, and for continuing developments of this story.

Ben Badger can be reached at bbadger@fiusm.com

Community feels mixed emotions after summit

VENEZUELA, page 1

major Michael Cases.

1,600-Miles away, former FIU student and now architecture major at Bogota’s Universidad de Los Andes, Natalia Reyes agreed the diplomatic crisis took a toll on students not only in Miami but all across different nations.

“Having talked to my FIU friends in Miami and now being in [Bogota] seeing it happen, I can truthfully say that every student could not fully concentrate on school and was actually very nervous and anxious for a resolution,” Reyes said.

Despite the optimism shown by South American leaders at the summit, there are still many students who say the regional tension triggered by the cross-border incursion is expected to linger much longer as conflicts between these countries are deep-rooted.

“It’s not going to go away in reality,” said Ecuadorian FIU sophomore Julian Dominguez. “It’s all for the press and public to calm down.”

Colombian President Alvaro Uribe has taken a tough stance against the rebels of the FARC, since he took office in 2002, labeling it as a “terrorist organization.” Colombia has since accused Ecuador and Venezuela of having financial ties to FARC and providing it with safe havens.

Universidad de Los Andes Psychology professor and Harvard graduate Maria Larusso believes that such diplomatic tensions can have an academic effect on students in these countries involved.

“During [their] college years students always seek out to make a difference in some unique way. When it comes to your homeland or your cultural ties, this urge is stronger than ever whether you are a student in Quito, Miami or Caracas and it can take your mind off the tasks at hand,” Larusso said.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated March 24, 2008, the story titled “Fifth year of Iraq war brings protestors out,” incorrectly refers to Rebecca Lubin as Rose Lubin in one instance.

The FIU Alumni Association will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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EVELYN DIAZ
Staff Writer

Ana Margarita Martínez’s story started with the hopes of a better life in the United States. It ended with spies, an artist and an airplane donated to FIU.

It was a shocking experience to say the least,” Martinez said. “I can’t begin to tell you what a traumatizing experience this was.”

Martinez came to the U.S. after fleeing Cuba in 1966 with her grandmother and mother in order to have a chance at a life of freedom from the Cuban government. Despite escaping to the U.S., the Cuban government caught up with her local church and fell in love. In 1995, after two years of dating, the two got married.

After living in the states most of her life, Martinez met Pablo Roque at Martínez’s church. The two got to know each other, fell in love and refused to believe that he was a spy and that four years of her life had been a farce. I believe that he has been forced to return; that maybe they had used his children as leverage. I even thought that his life was in danger. After all, he was a former Cuban Air Force Major and a MiG pilot who had defected. I thought he’d be jailed or even condemned to death for treason,” Martinez said.

After her husband’s unveiling as a spy and being left in debt by him, Martinez took her problems toward Fidel Castro by file suit and sued the Cuban government.

After two different rulings, Judge Alan Postman ordered the Cuban government to pay Martinez $27.17 million for her pain and anguish as a victim of Roque’s plot and schemed marriage. Martinez was never paid directly by the Cuban government, but as fate would have it, she would eventually be compensated.

The U.S. government seized an Antonov An-2 biplane, which was stolen by a family of eight in Cuba, after they landed in Key West.

The plane was presented to the Monroe County Sheriffs Office to be auctioned off.

“The auctioning was made possible due to the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002. According to The Miami Herald, the act specifies that people with judgments against a designated terrorist party – such as Iran, Iraq or Cuba – may move to keep the assets of any agency or instrumentality of that terrorist party.

The original plan was to turn all of the earnings from the auction over to Martinez.

Because her anger toward Fidel Castro was so strong, Martinez decided to bid on the plane herself in order to make sure the plane would never have the chance to be sent back to Cuba. She won the plane for herself at $7,500.

“Seizing the Cuban air-plane was a moral victory and a statement,” Martinez said.

She later sold it to her lawyer.

“The airplane was expensive to maintain, there was a monthly charge for keeping it at a hangar. After nearly a year, my attorney, Scott W. Leeds, offered me $2,500 for it. He wanted to move it to Miami and it was expensive to move. Since he was going to pay for the expenses, he wanted to own it first. He later donated it to the Cuban Monument for Freedom.

“I am on the board of that organization and we have since been actively looking for a permanent exhibition location for the AN-2,” said Martinez.

The lawyer eventually sold it to Miami artist Xavier Cortada, who turned the plane into a work of art. Cortada painted half of the plane and left the other half in its original form. He then donated the plane to FIU with the intentions of informing students and staff of the struggles facing Cubans today.

“The airplane is a symbol of freedom on one side and of oppression on the other. I can only hope that it will help reveal the history of the Cuban situation: A corrupt government’s continuous abuse of basic human rights and the dissidents’ and opposition leaders’ struggle for the freedom of the Cuban people,” said Martinez.

Martinez is pleased with the plane’s fate. FIU is an ideal location to exhibit the symbolic artwork of Cortada, as well as to tell its story and the story of the Cuban people who desire and deserve their freedom,” said Martinez.

According Madaline Baro, assistant director of the Office of Media Relations, there are no updates on when the plane will be installed on the ceiling of the Freedom Center building at University Park Campus.
Florida history said to become new gourmet market, condos

This April, a South Florida staple will shut its doors for good. The Rascal House, a New York style deli restaurant located at 17190 Collins Avenue, in Sunny Isles, has been a neighborhood favorite since it first opened in 1954. One of my own favorites, actually.

Nothing could be more comforting when battling a flu, than a bowl of their homemade matzo ball soup or eating from the ever-flowing basket of bialys - small bread pockets filled with onions - smothered with butter while waiting for a meal.

In the past you couldn’t miss the Rascal House because of its mascot, the gigantic laughing face of a devilish child. But, when the restaurant shuts down in April, it has been rumored that the Rascal House, a New York staple will shut its doors for good. The end of an icon:

END OF AN ICON: The flickering neon sign of the Rascal House is worn and rundown, past its prime and about to yield to new downtown development.

As Smeds happy, but it has made it harder for FIU’s swimming team. Swimming activities are now scheduled at Miami Shores or at the Tamiami Pool, adjacent to the south side of University Park campus.

“It’s been real hard not to have a pool of our own where we can just decide to meet on a given day. Since we are using a pool that belongs to the county, we have to accommodate our schedules around the schedules of the city and the other people that use the pool,” said Noemi Zaharia, Head Women’s Swimming & Diving Coach.

The pool, which opened in April of 1985, took 15 months to complete at a cost of $1.3 million, according to The Miami Herald. The pool holds roughly 461,250 gallons of water, which is about enough water to flush all the standard size toilets at Dolphins Stadium an estimated 192 times.

“The pool is a huge asset to FIU with its recreational uses. We have after school programs and high schools that hold water polo meetings here. It really bolsters our Student Recreation Program,” Bardawil said.

The current state of the Aquatic Center has not only made it difficult to keep students such as Smeds happy, but it has made it harder for FIU’s swimming team. Swimming activities are now scheduled at Miami Shores or at the Tamiami Pool, adjacent to the south side of University Park campus.

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Despite multiple attempts to contact Sylvia Berenguer, director of Minor Construction Projects at FIU, and Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs and Undergraduate Education, both were unavailable for comment.

If you are interested in writing, designing or editing for The Beacon, pass by our office in GC 210 to pick up an application and get in on this action!

3 times a week ain’t no easy feat!

For entry details, visit What’s New at http://cri.fiu.edu or call 305.348.1991.
UPSETTING MOTHER NATURE

Endangered Species Act is not enough anymore

JOSEPH MARHEE
Opinion Editor

In 2001, The Lake Sammamish kokanee, a type of salmon, went extinct. Later that year, Columbia's Basin Pygmy went extinct, both of these species were denied "emergency listing" on the endangered species list, which resulted in their extinction.

In the past seven years President George W. Bush has only added 59 species to the list of protected animals — his father, President George H.W. Bush, and President Bill Clinton averaged that many each year during their terms, according to MSNBC's report. "Guarding Species is Harder."

Bush's management, coupled with his appointment of the Dept. of the Interior Secretary, Dirk Kempthorne and Fish and Wildlife Service director, Dale Hall's guidance, the criteria for a Domestic Endangered Species has become even more stringent.

What's unsettling is that it seems like Bush and the Interior Department are trying to "cap" how many animals they have to protect.

MSNBC's report attested that interior officials had overruled agency scientists on a regular basis, as was the case with the Kokanee and the Basin Pygmy.

Some of the Interior's documents seem to suggest that bureaucratic obstacles were put in place specifically for the purposes of limiting the power of the Endangered Species Act itself.

Some independent agencies took it upon themselves to petition the protection of species that are at risk; prominent among them were WildEarth Guardians.

WildEarth filed a lawsuit on March 20 to pass a court order to protect 681 domestic species all at once.

The members of the group have been fighting to get hundreds of species on the list but these roadblocks typically protect the Interior from having to consider petitions; thus, a court order becomes necessary.

"It's an urgent situation and something has to be done," said Nicole Rosmarino, the group's conservation director, to MSNBC on Mar. 20. "This roadblock to listing under the Bush administration is criminal."

Lawsuits have consistently been filed against Fish and Wildlife Service — who approves listing decisions — since the early 90's, creating a quagmire that the service has slowly returned to the surface.

As a result of their dodging the listing recommendations, only 21 listings had been considered per year, according to the Service Director, Dale Hall.

"Lawsuits, starting in the early '90s, have really driven things," Hall said, adding that the administration has tried to keep species from declining to the point where they need to be listed. "I'm feeling pretty good we're back on track to do the job the way it's supposed to be done."

It's reprehensible that government agencies can get away with roadblocking listings that could potentially result in a flourishing species quickly disappearing.

Furthermore, the practices currently used to distinguish how "at risk" a species is even more horrendous: Their current habitat is taken into account, not their previous habitat and why they had to relocate somewhere else, according to MSNBC's report.

This leaves loggers open to chopping out entire sections of unprotected forest without the consequence of endangering an animal species and all of the requisite federal retribution.

By far the most disgusting of the policies involved with the Act is the criteria for "threatened" species' removal from the list. The Bald Eagle was delisted with less than the 500 breeding pair requirement for "survival." It took a lawsuit for the Fish and Wildlife Service to relist the desert eagle.

It is indeed "criminal" for Bush not to intervene when there is obvious corruption in a federal agency. Is it right for these officials to disregard research and warnings from scientists incontrovertibly outlining which species needed to be listed?

In the past 35 years, the Endangered Species Act has saved thousands of species from extinction, why is it that this should end with George W. because of Hall's preference for trials to delist animals rather than list and protect them, which is, after all, his job.

Joseph Marhee can be contacted at joseph.marhee@fi usm.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Students should change behaviors to help environment

College students have traditionally been the most radical agents of social change. We have led movements that have changed our culture and are generally more conscientious than other members of society. So it is surprising to see so much apathy on campus when it comes to the environment.

FIU does not have a sufficient recycling program, there are very few vegan options in the food court, the buildings are made freezing cold by overusing the air conditioning, and the overall amount of waste is shocking. Institutional issues aside, individual students could be doing a lot more to help save our planet, and I'm not even talking about extreme measures. There are small changes we can make every day that will make a difference. Turn off the lights and water when you aren't using them. Bring reusable bags when you shop. Turn down your air conditioning.

Take the stairs instead of the elevator, and turn off your computer overnight. Occasionally choose meals that are free of meat, dairy and eggs; not just to prevent animal cruelty, but also to reduce the energy and water waste, land degradation, and pollution associated with factory farming.

We can write letters to the administration to start a comprehensive recycling program on campus, and get the air conditioning turned down in the buildings. Even though these steps are small, they can have a significant impact. Hopefully small steps will inspire people to make bigger changes. The most important thing is to be aware of your actions and the repercussions they have on the environment. Our generation is facing a major crisis, and it is up to us to lead the movement for change.

Elizabeth Menard
Sophomore

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

• Yes – Guns pose a more serious threat and are ultimately unnecessary with Public Safety on Campus.
  42%

• No – Student's have a constitutional right to bear arms, and should be able to defend themselves.
  58%

Total participants: 95
Cast your vote at www.fiusm.com
A refuge that nurtures creativity awaits those ready for a new artistic experience. Anything is possible at Color Me Mine, where the seemingly mundane craft of ceramics takes on new life.

Located at 3411 Main Highway in Coconut Grove, Color Me Mine offers the chance to make your own personal ceramic creation. Whether in the company of friends at a birthday or a lazy afternoon, this franchise caters to a variety of events.

“[When you arrive], you choose from the selection of colors,” said Alexander Juan, a Color Me Mine employee.

The Color Me Mine franchise began 14 years ago and has been a popular destination for tourists and locals alike.

“The process is simple. First, you choose a ceramic piece. Color Me Mine has over 400 designs to choose from. Second, you sketch a design on your piece or choose one of the 25,000 available ones on the design computer. Finally, choose a color. Then you can paint it however you wish. After this, an employee will place your piece in a kiln. While inside, the flames fuse the paint onto its surface. In the end, you can take your piece home to show all your friends who were not there to share the artistic experience with you.”

Although no appointments are necessary to create a new work of art, you can easily plan get-togethers at Color Me Mine, which has become quite the party place.

Birthday parties for children include a private room, two hours of studio time, pizza, cake and more.

Parties for adults are also available. Bridal showers have become quite popular, considering brides-to-be can set up gift registries for their big days.

“When I first walked through its doors, I felt the freedom of being able to paint whatever I wanted, even though I can’t paint to save my life,” said Geena Cesar, a Color Me Mine customer. “I was able to express myself for the first time through art because of this store and I still have my first sculpture sitting in my living room,” Cesar said.

For those who feel like art is not and will never be their “thing,” no need to worry – Color Me Mine is for everyone, not just the future Michelangelos out there.

Step One: Choose your ceramic piece.
Step Two: Sketch your original design with a pencil or choose graphics from the design computer.
Step Three: Select your underglazes – they have over 65 colors to choose from.
Step Four: Paint it however you wish. Check out the Color Me Mine technique sheets for painting ideas.
Step Five: Fire in the kilns on premises.

Just bring your empty cartridge to the CVS/pharmacy campus store, 1549 SW 107th Avenue. We refill all major inkjet cartridge brands.
Diversions

There is a lot of hemming and hawing among educators about the introduction of technology in the early grades. Ching has observed that children find ways to transform their experiences with technology into fun, highly organized group activities and functions. She also found that technology-based activities can be explicitly designed to foster social reflection and advanced planning among young children.

Ching and her collaborator, X. Christine Wang from the University at Buffalo, SUNY, will present this research at 4:05 p.m. today at the annual meeting of the American Association of Educational Researchers in New York City.

In their first study, Ching and Wang observed children who chose to play a computer game during their free time rather than engage in another activity such as performing sports. Though only one child could play at a time, the children negotiated turns. They also gave each other advice about how to play the game.

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Beloved readers,

In conjunction with the new thrice-a-week publishing schedule, The Beacon is adding a new feature to the paper: Diversions, a section dedicated to cartoons and other “diversions.” In the coming weeks, we’ll be including Sudoku and other games to complement the comics. Expect this section to run weekly in our Wednesday issues. If you have an idea for a comic, please e-mail me at Geoffrey.Anderson@fiusm.com

- Geoffrey Anderson Jr., Life! Editor

Video games may be good for kids, study shows

Contrary to common education wisdom, computer games and other technologies can foster community-building, a strong sense of identity and higher-level thinking even in very young students, UC Davis researchers report.

“There is a lot of hemming and hawing among educators about the introduction of technology in the early grades,” said Cynthia Carter Ching, associate professor of education at the University of California, Davis.

“But the worst-case scenarios just don’t pan out. Technology can facilitate creativity and social awareness, even when we don’t design the use of it to do so.

And when we do design technology activities with these things in mind, the possibilities are endless,” Ching said.

According to Ching, early childhood educators often argue that technology can squelch young children’s creativity and social interaction in the classroom.

But in two recent studies of kindergarten and first-grade students, Ching has observed that children find ways to transform their experiences with technology into fun, highly organized group activities and functions. She also found that technology-based activities can be explicitly designed to foster social reflection and advanced planning among young children.

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“Though this is hardly the ideal setting for social interaction and higher-level thinking, the children exhibited a great deal of executive planning skills and complex social negotiations without any guidance or interference from adults,” Ching said.

In the second study, children were given digital cameras and told to create digital photo journals with the pictures they took.

Ching found the students displayed creativity and engaged in complex planning at every stage of the assignment, from how they framed their shots to how they chose to organize them to tell a story.

“This study shows that rather than technology being something that children merely use, it can be a creative tool for increased reflection on social networks, friendships, relationships with teachers and a sense of self within the world of school,” Ching said.

Ching and Wang received the Jan Hawkins Award for Early Career Contributions to Humanistic Research and Scholarship in Learning Technologies at last year’s AERA meeting.

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- Geoffrey Anderson Jr., Life! Editor
Picture this: After semesters of papers and exams, the time to graduate has arrived. You’re about to walk across the stage to accept your diploma and suddenly the thought of your future overwhelms you. Job placement and opportunities are struggles recent college graduates face. Being a novice in this world filled with businessmen and women can be daunting and students can benefit from the resources offered by the business fraternity, Beta Alpha Psi.

FIU’s chapter of BAP, Eta Iota, was chartered on April 4, 1986 currently boasts 54 members. The fraternity is targeted toward students with majors such as accounting, finance and management information systems. The fraternity prides itself on building professional connections between its members and several prominent accounting firms, which provides students with an opportunity for employment and an advantage over the competition.

“Our organization identifies itself as the bridge to professionalism that helps students [overcome] the gap between student and professional life. We teach everything from interviewing, to resume writing, to behaving like a true professional,” said Eta Iota chapter President Jonathan Morera.

This fraternity provides members with the opportunity to be introduced to various firms such as Deloitte, Price Waterhouse-Coopers, and Ernst & Young during weekly Friday meetings and such events as “Firms Night.” Firms Night is like “speed-dating with [corporate] firms,” said Morera.

Five members are paired up with five associates from many prestigious firms and switch to a new firm at a new table every 10 minutes. “This semester we were happy to have held it in the new College of Business Complex, we had a tremendous turnout with 189 registered attendees,” Morera said. “Employers use firms night as the primary source for candidate selection along with the FIU Career Fair put on by the FIU Career Services Office.”

BAP is made up of different committees that serve a range of duties throughout the organization. The Public Relations committee is in charge of recording and coordinating all events hosted and visited by the fraternity, to be included in their newsletters. Other committees include tutoring, fundraising and an Honors council.

The committees encourage members to get involved and are varied to suit each member’s strong suits. BAP is not all work and no play. Last semester, the fraternity hosted a softball tournament at Tropical Park where members and pledges played against each other.

“I would have to say that the benefits of fraternity builds camaraderie, connections membership are endless,” Morera said. Morera goes on to explain how brotherhood within the fraternity extends beyond the organization. The camaraderie members form helps to build strong bonds, which helps promote teamwork.

BAP holds weekly meetings every Friday at 6 p.m. in GC 150. The BAP Web site can be accessed at [http://www.fiu.edu/~bap/qa.html](http://www.fiu.edu/~bap/qa.html).

### Pledge Process:

1. Meet the academic requirements listed above.
2. Fill out the application.
3. Submit a copy of your SASS report or unofficial transcript.
4. Pay the appropriate Pledge or Membership fee.
5. Attend and participate at the weekly meetings.

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**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY/ BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS**

**SGA LECTURES SERIES PRESENTS**

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**WWW.FIU.EDU/~BAP**
Member discusses life, music of Christian rock band

ROSALYN DELGADO Contributing Writer

On March 11, rock band Emery performed at Ft. Lauderdale’s Culture Room in support of their latest album “I’m Only a Man.” The Beacon spoke with Josh Head, Emery’s keyboardist, about tour pranks, song writing and the band’s future.

The Beacon: Being in a Christian band, how do you approach the touring life differently from other bands?

Head: I don’t know how it is different for us. We don’t feel that if a band is Christian they should only tour churches or anything like that. For the most part the bands are pretty cool, we feel like we should be like a regular band...play clubs and bars and such. We are not a sex, drugs and rock n roll type of band, if that’s what you mean and I know a lot of them are.

The Beacon: I know you guys have been touring quite some time now, are there any embarrassing moments from being on tour, or pranks that you’ve pulled on each other, that maybe you’d like to share?

Head: We play a lot of pranks on each other, we all sleep in one bus so we have this thing where if you wake up in the middle of the night and you are in the bunk area, you have to scream as loud as you can to try and scare everybody up, so we did that for quite a bit, then we got an air horn. (laughs) I know that scared the crap out of me for some time. Its funny when you wake up and your heart is racing and you don’t know what’s going on.

The Beacon: I know that you guys have toured practically everywhere. Do you at this point have a favorite city or venue where you like to play?

Head: I don’t know. We used to have a favorite place to play in but now, I mean if we go to a city and the fans are awesome and it’s fun and chill, then you enjoy playing there. I can’t say it’s a total favorite place, but we enjoy playing at home in Seattle, mainly because we have our friends and family who come out to see us, but I’d also

have to say playing in Texas is always funny, Florida (the Social, the very first time we played in Florida in our career was there, it’s a pretty cool place). Philadelphia. Like I said, it’s hard to say just one.

The Beacon: Did you write any of the songs on the new album?

Head: Well, Toby and Devin are the ones that write most of the lyrics, they are both the singers. I’ll sometimes come up with a chorus idea or a guitar part and then we’ll all sit down and throw in all our ideas, like “we should add this to that line,” “this should be played like this,” it’s all very collaborative, but Toby and Gavin do the majority of the writing and we just hash out the songs during practice. Someone will say “oh that sucks, let’s take it out” but then someone else will say “no that doesn’t suck, you suck” then we’ll all get into a big fight or something.

The Beacon: Do you have a favorite song right now from the new album that you like to play live?

Head: I would say it has to be a song from the album that we actually don’t play live, but I think it’s awesome. My favorite song that we play live right now I would have to say it’s “Don’t bore us, get to the Chorus.”

The Beacon: Do you guys have any pet foods that you take with you on tour? What’s going on stage? Anything that you do as band or individually? How do you prepare before going on stage?

Head: We don’t really do much now, we use to do a lot more. When we first started out we use to do all kinds of weird and wacky things like warms ups and jumping jacks in a circle just to try and be funny. Now it’s pretty much just vocal warms up before we play and that’s about it, maybe stretch my back a little bit. Water...we drink a lot of water.

The Beacon: Being on tour for so long can get pretty stressful, I’m sure. Is there anything in particular that you do to blow off steam and relax?

Head: Well we all play a lot a Halo 3, that’s pretty much our favorite pastime, also we play sports sometimes, just the other day the guys were playing football randomly before a show, I play basketball a lot. Sometimes we’ll just hang out in the front or back lounge yelling at each other, talk trash and fight before or after shows, you know the usual.

The Beacon: How do you guys get into the mood for writing music?

Head: It happens all the time. For me at least it can happen in the middle of the night, where I’ll have an idea for a song. I take care of mostly all the electronic stuff, when I’m writing songs on my keyboard I’ll just think of some sound and I’ll try to figure out how to make it come out of my head and from my instrument, but yeah, it comes from all around; it could be something that you hear from another band, you get inspired and you think “hey that’s cool” I’d like to create something like that.

The Beacon: Where do you see Emery in the next ten years?

Head: Well I don’t know, that’s a long time. I’ll be so old by then. Hopefully I’m not a crusty old rock n roller. We do plan to make music as long as we can. At the very least, if we stop touring, we’ll keep putting out records, I know a lot of us will probably start doing side projects, solos and such in the next year to kind of try out other musical ideas. We’ll probably start five different bands that will probably take over the world.

Avoid digital disgrace through engine search

Any web browser you use keeps a running tab of the pages you’ve seen, images you’ve seen and text you’ve typed. Browsers temporarily store all this information in the computer’s cache to easily recall it on later visits rather than exert the effort to load fresh data. While this “thoughtful” effort may be welcomed from your personal computer, it’s not something you want public computers – like those in the library you use for your overdue term paper – to do.

The next time you’re about to log out after using a computer on campus, take a moment to click the browser’s preferences or tools and clear your history. You can usually do this by knowing how much time you’ve spent on www.perezhilton.com – not the person who logs in after you.

Another way to polish your image online is to Google yourself shamelessly.

Run a general search on your full name and see what the first page turns up, then see the shoes of future employers and graduate school admissions committees that will do the same when you submit an application: are you going to hire you or is your judgment on hold while you cringe at newly posted pictures of your 3 a.m. game face on www:lastnightsparty.com?

Don’t sweat it - use these search results to dust your online tracks.

If you’re not happy with your Google ranking, or find it’s non-existent, change it.

Establish yourself online by joining a social network site (aimed at the one person on the planet, besides myself, who doesn’t have a myspace account), starting a blog or buying a domain to set up an online portfolio.

Though you don’t have to go that far – signing up for a free www.flickr.com account to post photos online is more than enough to get search engines excited about you.

Make an effort to update on a weekly basis with new, deliberate information to boost your name’s search results rank and ensure that those who are looking for you find the person you want them to see.

While this kind of digital sitting sounds tedious at best, remember that whatever is out there on the web is there for everyone and anyone to see – those who know you and those who don’t.

Take control of your digital footprint and make sure you’re making the first impression you want to, not the one the net does.
Players and owners hope to modify drug test rules

**RONALD BLUM**
AP Writer

Lawyers for baseball players and owners hope to reach an agreement on changes in their drug agreement before most teams start the regular season, culminating talks that began following recommendations in December's Mitchell Report. The sides agreed to talk this week in Arizona during the final week of spring training. The third consecutive appearance in the series. She would not be ousted in the seventh round as she pitched the complete game victory.

During the first three innings, the Golden Panthers could not record a hit. The fourth inning changed that with a Kim Rodriguez home run. It was her team leading 13th home run of the season. She is one home run away from tying FIU's single season home run record of 14 set last year by shortstop Monique White.

Rodriguez and White now both hold the record for the program's career home run record with 22. A bases loaded single by the Trojans gave them a temporary lead. That lead evaporated in the following inning as the Golden Panthers scored four runs and a pinch-hit home run by Brook Ruiz.

Barrett improved to 14-10 and the Golden Panthers improved to 18-21 overall and 4-1 in Sun Belt Conference play.

The Golden Panthers return home as they host UCF on March 28.

- Compiled by Sergio Bonilla

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### TROY VS FIU

**IFU 6 TROY 5**

The long ball proved to be the Golden Panthers' friend in their rubber match against Troy on March 22 at Troy, Ala. The team tied a program record by hitting four home runs in the game, and Kasey Barrett made her third consecutive appearance in the conference play. The team tied a program record by hitting four home runs in the game, and Kasey Barrett made her third consecutive appearance in the series.

Then Kim Rodriguez hit a soft single to score two more RBI. The Trojans tied the game in the fourth inning due to an infield single and two wild pitches by starting pitcher Jessica Landau.

The Golden Panthers retaliated in the second inning with another three runs fueled by two Trojans errors. The previous game's hero, Heidi Johnson, tacked on a run in the fifth inning to begin the rally. The Trojans were not done yet as they cut the lead to one run. Kasey Barrett would redeem her loss she received a couple of hours before by coming into relief and killing the Trojans' rally and recording her first save of the season.

The win improved the Golden Panthers' record to 17-21 and 3-1 in conference play.

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**TROY FIU 5**

The FIU Golden Panthers sent their ace Kasey Barrett to the mound for the first time of the game after an illness. She pitched well until the last inning dooming her and the Golden Panthers via a walk-off home run by Heidi Johnson.

Felicia Hammer led the seventh inning with a home run. After two singles, the Trojans had runners on the corners. Johnson broke up the 2-2 tie with the walk-off.

The Golden Panthers scored two runs in the first inning and would not score the remainder of the game. Barrett struck out nine batters through 6.1 innings of work.

**IFU VS TROY**

For the second consecutive game, the Golden Panthers got on the board first with a three-run home run to open the game.

**THREE IN A ROW**

The FIU Golden Panthers scored their first run of the game after an illegal pitching motion with the bases loaded. The Trojans loaded up the next runners one bases.

**PICKING UP STEAM:**

Johnson would break the 2-2 ties later in the inning to begin the rally. The Trojans were not done yet as they cut the lead to one run. Kasey Barrett would redeem her loss she received a couple of hours before by coming into relief and killing the Trojans' rally and recording her first save of the season.

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SPORTS

SUN BELT BASEBALL STANDING

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*All records up to date as of March 24, 2008

SUN BELT LEADERS

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Sports Replay

UC IRVINE 5, FIU 2

The Golden Panthers (9-13) could not produce the same offense against one of the top pitchers in the nation, Scott Gorgen. No. 5 ranked UC Irvine (15-1) held the Golden Panthers to two runs, winning 5-2 March 21 at the Bob Schaefer Memorial Tournament in Tempe, Ariz.

Gorgen shut down the Golden Panthers through 7.1 innings of work.

FIU’s Jorge Castillo and Rainmy Fuentes both went 2-for-4, which accounted for four of the team’s seven hits. Coming into the game, Gorgen had allowed seven hits in 30 innings this season.

After scoring in the first inning of the game, the Golden Panthers could not muster much more offensive production, scoring just one run for the remaining nine innings.

ARIZONA STATE 10, FIU 5

A day after facing the No. 5 team in the nation, the Golden Panthers (9-14) squared off against the No. 1 team, Arizona State (20-1). The Golden Panthers’ pitching could not hold off the ASU offense as the team fell 10-5 on March 22 in Tempe, Ariz.

Jorge Castillo extended his hitting streak to 19 games for the Golden Panthers with his fifth home run of the season.

The teams were tied headed into the seventh inning before the Golden Panthers’ bullpen took the loss allowing five runs in the last two innings.

Each of Arizona State’s first five batters had at least one, hit including Ike Davis, who had three RBI.

ARIZONA STATE 8, FIU 4

Arizona State (21-1) jumped to an early 7-0 lead in the second game of the double header and would go on to win 8-4 against the FIU Golden Panthers (9-14) on March 22 at Tempe, Ariz.

Jorge Castillo extended his hitting streak to 19 games for the Golden Panthers with his fifth home run of the season.

Each of Arizona State’s first five batters had at least one, hit including Ike Davis, who had three RBI.

Arizona State starter Josh Satow threw six innings, allowing two runs. The Golden Panthers managed to score two runs against the bullpen.

FIU starter Corey Poliziano (3-2) took the loss, allowing seven runs on seven hits.

NORTHERN COLORADO 13, FIU 9

The final day of the Bob Schaefer Memorial Tournament featured an offensive explosion and defensive miscues form both sides as the Golden Panthers (9-16) fell to Northern Colorado 13-9 on March 23 in Tempe, Ariz.

The game combined 22 runs, 25 hits and 10 errors. The Northern Colorado Bears (7-15) handed Arizona State its first loss the season.

Golden Panther starter Jorge Ramos pitched one plus inning of work, allowing five runs (three earned).

During the eighth inning, the Golden Panthers scored five runs to cut the lead to 13-9.

Jorge Castillo went 3-for-5 with two RBI and Lamar Guy went 2-for-4 with three RBI. Each team had five errors, which caused FIU to allow six unearned runs while the Bears allowed three unearned runs.

Compiled by Sergio Bonilla

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Women’s basketball advances past second round despite key injuries

The Golden Panthers would drop three of their next four games including their first two Sun Belt Conference games on the road against Middle Tennessee and Arkansas-Little Rock.

The team would seem to get back on track while hosting the FIU Sun & Fun tournament.

However, just when it seemed FIU was back, but shortly after giving FIU their first lead, Ferguson would suffer a severe knee injury that would end her senior season – and career – at FIU.

Middle Tennessee came into the Pharmed Arena with a 9-3-conference record and took it to FIU early and gained a 20-10 lead.

Ferguson led the Golden Panthers back, but shortly after giving FIU their first lead, Ferguson would suffer a severe knee injury that would end her senior season – and career – at FIU.

Despite the loss, it was a great game for FIU as the team proved that it had really evolved over the course of the season no matter how much diversity it faced. It is debatable who FIU’s MVP was this season. Ferguson seems like the clear choice, but my vote would go to Bosilj.

This underclassman played half the season with a partially torn ligament in her shooting arm, while posting career numbers in scoring.

The team’s 13-18 record was not indicative of how well the team played this season. Russo should return next season with a healthier squad and maturing players.

With their arm, leg and eye intact, the healthy panther represented the successful athletic program at FIU next season.

Despite their biggest win of the season, the women’s basketball team early in the season – and career – at FIU.

Next, FIU would take on DePaul, Florida State, Providence, South Carolina and South Alabama.

A fifth win was notched four days later as the Golden Panthers toppled Sun Belt West leaders Arkansas-Little Rock.

However, just when it seemed FIU had nothing to do, especially with their leader sidelined.

FIU would pull off the win and punch their ticket to the second round in Mobile, Ala. against No. 2 seeded UALR.

FIU fought tooth and nail against UALR and kept the Trojans off the scoreboard for almost seven minutes at the start of the game. UALR retaliated and edged out FIU during the final seconds of play.

Despite the loss, it was a great game for FIU as the team proved that it had really evolved over the course of the season no matter how much diversity it faced.

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