Work in Progress

EDUARDO MORALES
Contributing Writer

Three years ago, Hurricane Wilma struck Florida with the strength of a category three storm. Though most of FIU escaped damage, the Center for Engineering and Applied Sciences building was not so lucky. Located just a mile down Flagler Street from University Park, damage from Hurricane Wilma has gone unfixed despite complaints by students. For more photos, go to FIUSM.com.

Construction equipment sits unused in the damaged parking structure at the Engineering Center on Flagler Street. Damage from Hurricane Wilma has gone unfixed despite complaints by students. For more photos, go to FIUSM.com.

Construnction Delays: Construction sits unused in the damaged parking structure at the Engineering Center on Flagler Street. Damage from Hurricane Wilma has gone unfixed despite complaints by students. For more photos, go to FIUSM.com.

Engineering Center still in disrepair

ASHLEY ARTILLES
Staff Writer

Feeling their needs were not being met by mainstream Greek councils, minority Greeks set themselves apart, creating the Multicultural Greek Council.

"Given the nature of the various multicultural organizations, we all decided that the name, Multicultural Greek Council, would best describe us," said Shirley Armenteros, president of MGC.

MGC, created in January 2008, is comprised of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity Inc., Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Fraternity Inc., Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity Inc., Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc. and Delta Phi Omega Sorority Inc.

"We are now in a position that will allow us to take the next step and unify all the Greeks on campus ... now we are united and ready to create a legacy for MGC."

Victor Penedo, vice president

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New member intake is done at the discretion of the chapter and/or colony.

MGC’s main goals this semester are establishing a name for themselves through programming events, and educating the Greek community and University about the new council.

MGC will also work toward establishing a philanthropy where we can partner with, and make a difference in people’s lives. It will most likely be the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, but it is still to be announced," Armenteros said.

MGC plans to host three events this semester in order to inform students about the council, obtain Greek support through fundraisers on campus and further integrate the involved councils through improved communication.

"We are now in a position that will allow us to take the next step and unify all the Greeks on campus. In the past, the minority Greeks were itself apart from other governing councils because of a strong sense of culture and tradition, which influence how each organization functions.

By starting MGC, which my organization has been working on for a while, our secretary of MGC, Greeks in the council do not participate in the traditional Greek "Rush Week" nor the week-long recruitment process that many are familiar with. MGC organizations recruit differently.

GEORGETTE PETROV/TH EBECON

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NADIA KIJANKA
Staff Writer

FIU engineering students plan to revive their generation’s interest in amateur radio. The Amateur Radio Club is scheduled to begin operating amateur radios, or “ham” radios, and licensing their members as operators within the semester.

“One goal we [have] is to help people who are new to the hobby get their licenses and with that, they will be able to talk to anyone. Amateur radio in itself is its own kind of decentralized network. It allows people who have never met before to communicate," said Tom Morris, club president.

Merritt Burrus, vice president of the club, remembers being immersed in the world of technology at a young age, an experience which inspired him to enter his current career path. He hopes the Amateur Radio Club will be able to do the same for students involved.

"As a child I teched on phone cords. In kindergarten I did a science project on series versus parallel circuits. It really grew from there," Burrus said. "There’s a whole world of technology not many people know about, so my goal is to see other people get into amateur radio. I want others to have as much fun and get as interested in it as I did.”

Amateur radio began as a recreational hobby popularized in the early 20th century, using electronics and radio to communicate. Unlike commercial radios and broadcasts, an amateur radio was invented to provide a reliable mode of communication for fun and also to assist communities in times of emergencies and distress, such as after natural disasters.

One of the main goals of the club is for engineering students to have a chance to apply the skills they learn in their classrooms to real life.

"We want the club to provide technical assistance for people who are interested in building their own projects," Morris said. “Engineering students don’t necessarily learn all the particular lessons for building a project, such as how to solder. We’d like to help them out with that.”

Along with acquainting students with the operation of ham radios,
Club beneficial for community

MGC only to improve with time

Greeks, page 1

spread out within other councils, however, now we are united and ready to create a legacy for MGC,” said Victor Penedo, vice president of MGC. Although the council is closed for expansion this year, members are focusing on paving the ground for future growth.

Armenteros has a vision of the council over the next 10 years. “I see MGC much larger and stronger with exciting programming that excludes no one. We will have an established phi-lanthropy as a council and the highest GPA,” he said.

For more information, visit www.fiusa.edu/~greek's.

The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom. Tickets are available at MPAS—BIC, WUC 253 and MPAS—UP, GC 216 for $10 for students, and $30 for all others. RSVP at 305-919-5817 or email sonyera@fiu.edu.

New Board of Trustees member appointed

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist appointed Cesar Alvarez to the FIU Board of Trustees earlier this month. Alvarez has served as CEO Greenbud Traurig LLP, an international law firm, for 11 years. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors for the FIU Foundation and chaired the College of Law’s Advisory Board.

-Compiled by Christina Veiga

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STICKY FINGERS

RAW DOUGH: Mario Rodriguez samples cookie dough batter while touring the School of Hospitality Management building with the Student Affairs Graduate Association on March 26.

Contact Us
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BBC Managing Editor
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AT THE BAY

The Beacon – 3
www.fiusm.com
March 28, 2008

SGC-BBC lobbies for education on Capitol Hill

JULIA CARDENUTO  Contributing Writer

FIU students had a opportunity to discuss and act on current legislative issues impacting access and development of higher education.

Ten students and one graduate assistant from FIU traveled to Washington, D.C. from March 15 through March 18. A total of 400 students from across the country were gathered for the United States Student Association Legislative Conference at the L’Enfant Plaza Hotel.

The trip was funded by the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus’ travel budget and the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay.

Among the issues mentioned were the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which is supposed to strengthen the resources of universities and colleges to provide financial assistance to students; the “Gear Up” program, which encourages college students to continue their education and go to higher education institutions and the 2009 fiscal year budget.

There were no concrete results about the 2009 budget but it is important to know that members of Congress understand the issues and are committed to them, said Cassandra Andrade, SGC-BBC vice president.

Andrade placed great emphasis on the Access to the Economic Stability, Affordability and Power (ASAP). She said that a major concern is the instability of government funds for education.

“The government gives and takes money, there is no stable money. We understand that,” Andrade said. “However, students are concerned that they can’t pay for education and are already deep in debt with loans. Because of these kinds of issues, it is important that the federal government looks into the funding programs for students and try to make them more stable.”

Since Congress was in recess, the students talked to committee and staff members. FIU students met with staff serving Sen. Mel Martinez and Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart – both Florida representatives – and made important contributions to education reforms.

“It is better to meet with representatives and give them the facts and figures so they can relate better to their constituents. They were very helpful,” Saintable said. “The staff members research and work directly with the issues and then tell congressmen and women about these issues and how to approach them.”

The USSA Legislative Conference meets every March before and during the National Student Lobby Day on Capitol Hill.

Kenasha Paul, SGC-BBC director of legislative affairs, said she found the conference interesting and educational.

“I sharpened my lobbying skills, having the opportunity to talk to the senator and congressmen – and made important contributions to education reforms,” Paul said.

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Fat Joe, Mario to headline Spring Fling concert

ANA PEREZ  BBC Life! Editor

The week after Spring Break is known to be one of the toughest weeks for students, but Biscayne Bay Campus’ Student Programming Council came to the rescue by hosting Spring Fling, a week filled with an array of entertaining events.

Events included a throwback movie night on Tuesday, comedy show on Wednesday, “The Def Jam” Party on Thursday and various other activities each day throughout the week.

On Friday, March 28, SPC will hold the Spring Fling Concert, its first ever blockbuster celebration to top the week off, at 8 p.m. in the Hospitality Management Patio.

“We're going to promote to different colleges in Florida and we did a promotion on WEDR-FM 99 Jamz earlier so hopefully we have a big turnout. We want students to come out and support,” Dawson said.

This year, however, Dawson said SPC is anticipating a larger turnout.

“We're going to promote to different colleges in Florida and we did a promotion on WEDR-FM 99 Jamz earlier so hopefully we have a big turnout. We want students to come out and support,” Dawson said.

Jasmine Davis, a sophomore and business management major, is planning to attend.

“I'm really excited because two big artists are coming to the school,” Davis said. “I've never really been to a big concert before.”

Other students, such as Orange Carney, are going to the concert to mix and mingle.

“Besides having to work the event, I figure I might as well scoop up some of Mario's female fans,” said Carney, a junior majoring in advertising.

Whatever the case, Dawson said anybody who comes out should expect to have a good time.

Student tickets will be $10 and are on sale March 28.

General admission costs $15.
A LOSING TICKET
State contradicts policy on gambling
ERIC M. FELDMAN
Ast. Opinion Editor

“The choice is yours.” That’s the slogan of the new Florida Lottery setup that allows players to “choose” how much their jackpot will be picking better served buying three separate lotto tickets, thus increasing their chances of victory to three-in-23 million. Even more egregious in this situation than how unappealing this offer is—after all, players don’t have to spend the extra money, and personal choice is always appreciated in this situation is how unappealing this offer is—after all, players don’t have to spend the extra money, and personal choice is always an option.

This glorified scam, a ploy by a desperately cash-strapped state to cover budget deficits, is more likely to leave citizens with jack squat than a jackpot. This new change to the Florida Lottery not only makes little sense, but it highlights the hypocrisy of a state government with a long history of adversity toward gambling. Even $3 million, the minimum Lotto base jackpot, would go a long way in helping any Floridian’s financial problems. Adding on extra bucks to your base jackpot, would go a long way in having a shot at winning something of value.

Even $3 million, the minimum Lotto base jackpot, would go a long way in helping any Floridian’s financial problems. Adding on extra bucks to your base jackpot, would go a long way in having a shot at winning something of value.

Asst. Opinion Editor

Ielda M. Feldman can be reached at eric.feldman@fiusm.com

The Soapbox:
An Op-Ed Column
Next Olympics venue legitimizes China’s human rights violations

In 1936 the Olympic Games were opened by Adolph Hitler in Berlin. Despite global concern about Nazi racist policies, 49 nations participated. Hitler saw the Olympics as an opportunity to demonstrate the superiority of the so-called Aryan race, but the fact of the day was African-American Jesse Owens, who won four gold medals and for the moment discredited Nazi racism. The U.S. Olympic Committee, however, acceded to Nazi demands that no Jews be allowed on the American team.

The 2008 Olympics will be held this August in Beijing, where the government sees the Games as confirmation of China’s enhanced economic, political and moral standing. There is increasing concern around the world that the Olympics will serve to legitimate Chinese human rights abuses and its support for genocidal regimes in the Sudan, Iran and Burma.

The parallels are clear. In March, 1959, the people of Tibet rose up against the Chinese occupation of their country, which the People’s Liberation Army had invaded and conquered in 1951. More than a hundred thousand Tibetans, led by the Dalai Lama, fled into exile in India, and since then Chinese rule has uprooted Tibetan culture. Today, there are more ethnic Han Chinese in Tibet than there are Tibetans.

The leader of Tibet, the Dalai Lama, one of the most respected and beloved figures in the world, is no longer young, and Tibetans know that without his presence, their dream of independence, or at least meaningful autonomy, may not live beyond him.

This combination of factors—the international spotlight on Beijing, the 50th anniversary of the Tibetan national uprising, and the advancing age of Tibet’s leader—has resulted in worldwide protest and calls for a boycott of the Beijing Olympics. We at FIU know the Dalai Lama. He has invited us twice, leaving his indelible stamp of integrity and compassion on all of us. Generous of spirit as always, he rejects a boycott. He says that the Chinese people deserve to feel proud of their country and that hosting the Olympics is a shot at bringing the world’s attention needs to focus not only on the athletic competition and the Olympic spectacle, but on Chinese policies about human rights, religious freedom, and their treatment of Tibetans, whom he has no quarrel.

In a style reminiscent of his mentor, Mahatma Gandhi, he says that if the violence that is spreading across Tibet today continues, he will resign from public life. What he told me 25 years ago is even more true today. I asked whether he thought Tibetan freedom was a real possibility, and he said, “So long as human devastation is there, things will change. Inside Tibet, nationalism is even stronger than among those in exile. Quite remarkably, the Tibetan people’s determination is stronger than the Dalai Lama’s determination.”

The real factor that makes for this determination is the Chinese. The Chinese made the Tibetans tough. But ultimately, they brought out the greatness of Tibetan determination, will power and unity. So from that point of view, we must be grateful to the Chinese.

A boycott of the Olympics is unlikely, but the world’s attention needs to focus not only on the athletic competition and the Olympic spectacle, but on Chinese policies about human rights, religious freedom, and their long and brutal suppression of the Tibetan people.

Eric M. Feldman can be reached at eric.feldman@fiusm.com

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approaching arts
fair unites museums
in celebrating latin expression

JADE LÉONARDI
Staff Writer

Art aficionados unite: the Merrill Lynch arteaméricas is coming to Miami for the sixth consecutive year. arteaméricas, an art fair celebrating the latest trends in Latin American art, will be at the Miami Beach Convention Center from March 28 to March 31.

Featured at the event will be paintings, sculptures and multimedia from emerging Latin American artists as well as old favorites. The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum is participating in the art fair.

“Seventy-eight galleries from 14 countries will exhibit the work of the region’s 400 great masters, contemporary artists and young talents,” said Carolina Ledeza, arteaméricas spokesperson.

“Trends is a curatorial project for Merrill Lynch arteaméricas that was born since the first edition of the fair six years ago. Every year, I propose the latest generation in Post Contemporary Art in video, installation, performance, digital photography, contemporary sculpture and objectual art,” said Milagros Bello, curator of Trends.

Juan-Si, one of the artists participating in Trends, will give a special performance at the opening reception and on Saturday night.

The Museum of Contemporary Art of North Miami will present another exhibition which will feature marionette sculptures made from discarded objects by Miami artist Pablo Cano. MOCA will also present its photographic advertising campaign, Join Us!

Two panel discussions will take place every day at arteaméricas. Some guest speakers include art critic and curator Julia Pherzberg, who will discuss Venezuelan artist Nela Ochoa. Maggy Cuesta, the dean of New World School of the Arts, will speak about social responsibility in graphic design on March 28.

Six museums will be supporting arteaméricas. Including MOCA, Bass Museum of Art, Lowe Art Museum, California’s Museum of Latin American Art and FIU’s own Frost Art Museum.

“All of the Miami museums are invited to participate in the fair and represent their organization at the fair, as a way of promoting culture in Miami-Dade County,” said Ailyn Mendoza, Frost Art Museum’s marketing and communications assistant.

“With our participation at the fair, we are hoping to introduce the fair’s audience to all the great programs that we have at the Frost Museum,” Mendoza said.

Merrill Lynch arteaméricas will run March 28-31, from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Sunday, March 30, when it closes at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.arteamericas.com.

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German farce “Underpants” comes to FIU

JOHNATHAN DAVILA STAFF WRITER

Long deceased German playwright Carl Sternheim isn’t rolling in his grave—he’s probably laughing in it.

Coming this April 3-6 to the Wertheim Performing Arts Center at University Park, and April 10-13 to the Mary Anne Wolfe Theatre at the Biscayne Bay Campus, is Steve Martin’s adaptation of Sternheim’s controversial farce “The Underpants”—originally known in Germany as “Die Hose.”

It is being performed by FIU theater majors and is being directed by Professor Stephen Neal, who is a fan of Martin’s adaptation.

“I very much appreciate his work,” he said.

“Underpants” revolves around the character Louise Maske and her sudden rise to fame after her underpants fell to her ankles while she is watching a parade. It was originally known in Germany as “Die Hose.”

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“It’s about a woman finding herself and her voice in a male dominated society.

Forrest Whitaker, an actor best known for his older movies.

Building on the classic comedic mold of “The Odd Couple,” “Baby Mama” features Fey trying to fit Poehler’s messy, unbridled lifestyle into her perfect image of a mother. Undoubtedly by the end of the film, they will be closer than ever and Fey will be a proud mother with a new lifelong friend.

Despite the clichéd storyline, Fey and Poehler’s comedic chemistry on SNL should translate into an enjoyable comedy.

German farce “Underpants” comes to FIU
Despite reliever pitching five innings, Golden Panthers’ offense falls short

BASEBALL, page 8

innings, and we didn’t do anything to help our cause at that time,” Thomas said. The Golden Panthers scored two runs in the eighth to cut the Spartan lead to four runs. FIU scored two runs in the eighth inning, making it a 9-7 game. However, Alvarez would launch a two-run home run to left center, making it 11-7. The home run all but sealed the win for the Spartans.

CLASSIFIEDS

STUDENTS NEEDED

work and go to school get paid to socialize help promote new CLASSIFIEDS

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VILLARMARZO, page 8

Because those countries are nowhere near as rich as our friends in Japan. It’s no secret that the yen is more powerful than the dollar, so having their money come overseas to MLB would be the ultimate goal.

VILLARMARZO, page 8

Many baseball purists consider it a disgrace that the MLB is figuratively whoring itself out when it goes overseas. Perhaps the most popular players at this time because they can turn a huge profit. Most owners will do everything in their power to maximize profit.

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They even went traded away their two most popular players because they demanded huge salaries. With all that known, it’s no surprise that MLB will continue to open its season every four years in Japan, even though it feels dirty, even though it feels like a fake Opening Day.

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Many baseball purists consider it a disgrace that the MLB is figuratively whoring itself out when it goes overseas. Maybe one day they’ll try an Opening Day in Saudi Arabia or Dubai or any other economically prosperous country.

Money makes the world go round and because there’s nothing we can do to stop it, we might as well try and look past all the griminess and enjoy the game for what it is. Play ball!

Classifieds

JOBS

Students Needed work and go to school get paid to socialize help promote new

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
BASEBALL: TAMPA 11, FIU 7

Two-time champ pounces Golden Panthers’ starting pitching

LUCA MESSINA
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers scored three more runs in the bottom half of the game after being down 7-5 in the top of the third and eventually won, 11-7, after working five complete innings for the victory. FIU’s starting pitcher, Daniel Foltz, who allowed five earned runs on six hits, two runs (one earned) in 5.1 innings of work. Foltz improved to 4-0 with his seventh win of the season. Coach David Thomas said, “Every team we play on our schedule is a tough competition. We did a good job of scoring runs in the middle of the game,” said coach Turtle Thomas.

Tampa starter Daniel Foltz improved to 4-0 with five innings of work. “It feels good to be starting, but right now I’m not where I want to be,” said coach Turtle Thomas.

Competitive game...

“I felt good; it was just kind of a rough day,” said Ramos. “It feels good to be starting, but right now I’m not where I want to be,” said coach Turtle Thomas.

Baseball Notebook

Coach revisits No.1 team he helped build

LUCA MESSINA
Staff Writer

Head Coach Turtle Thomas took his 9-12 squad out to Tempe, Arizona for the Bob Schaefer Memorial Tournament last weekend. For anyone who knows Turtle Thomas and his past, it was to be an intriguing trip because Arizona State University was his latest coaching stop as an assistant and recruiting coordinator.

His sharp recruiting tactics and a solid foundation he helped build at his old coaching stomping grounds are evident in and has stressed the importance of playing against tough, elite competition. "Its hitters ready to face the types of pitchers you face in conference games and county league baseball season just like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like America’s pastime should be. While this goes along with Spring Training, it is not hard to imagine in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins like Japan to start the season. Every four years since 2000, MLB has sent two teams to Japan. But getting the Japanese (and people from other baseball-loving countries) to buy Kansas City Royals jerseys or Florida Marlins caps — basically merchandising from teams without Japanese players — would increase MLB’s revenues exponentially.

So why not open the season in other baseball-loving countries like Puerto Rico, Venezuela, South Korea or the Dominican Republic?