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. The council said it sets itself apart from other governing councils because of a strong sense of culture and tradition, which influence how each organization functions.

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Students were seen outside their rooms. These students, however, were not hosting a very successful party Tuesday night as an abundance of technologies.

LATE NIGHT STROLL: Two fire trucks and police cruisers were on scene Tuesday night after a fire alarm and sprinklers caused the evacuation of Malfunction sets off fire alarm.

FIU partnership receives $2.4 million check

The Housing Quad seemed to be hosting a very successful party Tuesday night as an abundance of students were seen outside their rooms. These students, however, were far from celebrating.

At 11 p.m. a problem in mechanical room 230 of Lakeview South supposedly set off the sprinklers throughout the second floor, causing Resident Assistants to evacuate students and to halt entrance into the building, according to Josafat Kosker, a desk assistant at Lakeview.

Some students, however, did not know whether they were experiencing a drill or an actual fire.

“Every time a fire drill happens, they don’t tell us beforehand, so I thought this was one, too,” said displaced student Pedro Gavillan. “I have been out here for about an hour and 20 minutes and the officers won’t give us any information.”

The majority of the residents seemed confused and unhappy.

“Every Wednesday night a meeting is held where students are reminded of the ground floor evacuation,” said Grenier. “There are also nets, which are basically when people mass panic and take cell phones or hams, something that allows them to practice a good operating procedure,” Burrus said.

The club meets every other Friday in the Panther Pit at 8 p.m, there one engineering center. A meeting will be held this week.

For more information, visit www.fiu.edu/~soc and search the club directory.

Club beneficial for community

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.

Armerteros 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 philanthropy as a council and the highest GPA,” he said.

For more information, visit the Campus Life office or the council’s soon-to-be-added Website: www.fiu.edu/greeks.

Ashley Artilles can be reached at Ashley.Artilles@fiu.edu.

MGC only to improve with time

The National Hurricane and Communication.

RADIO CLUB, page 1

club officers plan to hold hands-on seminars and workshops on concepts such as soldering, radio selection and usage to help students learn more about the electronic aspects of the hobby.

Morris and Burrus believe the Amateur Radio Club will also provide a service to FIU and the surrounding community through this alternative mode of communication.

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MGC only to improve with time
SGC-BBC lobbies for education on Capitol Hill

JULIA CARDENUTO Contributing Writer

FIU students attended a conference in Washington, D.C., and had the opportunity to discuss and act on current legislative issues impacting higher education.

Ten students and one graduate assistant from FIU attended a conference in 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 L'Enfant Plaza Hotel.

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

Due to 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 staffers, they are young and we can relate better to them. They were very helpful," Saintable said. "The 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."

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FIU students went through an application process in order to go to the trip. Saintable said SGC-BBC chose people they thought would directly benefit from the experience. They were looking for students who would be able to enjoy the opportunity, learn the information and make good use of it by bringing it forth to the student body.

Andrade said most students who attended are prospective student government members. However, there were different programs for different interests and students from various organizations are strongly encouraged to go.

"This is not something that only the student government does. A lot of organizations can benefit from attending this conference," Andrade said.

The SUSA Web site has information about issues that affect students. Students can get involved at www.usastudents.org.

Saintable said the trip was a great opportunity.

"It was a lot of fun and very educational. It is empowering to know that I am a voter, I am a citizen and I am privileged to have the right to walk into the Senate and say, ‘this is what we need, this is why we voted for you,’ and see that we can make a difference," Saintable said.

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 entertainment 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 two-day yearbook 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.

“My roommates and I are planning to attend. I’m really excited because two big artists are coming to perform there. We’re 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 anything 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 and the day of the event for non-students.

NATHAN VALENTIN/THE BEACON

Nehemi, Crossover and other local artists will also perform.

André Dawson, Spring Fling chairperson

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A LOSING TICKET

State contradicts policy on gambling

ERIC M. FELDMAN
Asst. 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 once-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 good — is how quickly Florida’s government is turning to gambling to solve its money woes. Given its track record for preventing gambling from getting a foothold in the state through legal blockades and even arrests. In 2006, Gale Fontaine, an adult-arcade operator, was arrested by the Broward Sheriff’s Office for operating video slot machines that rewarded a mostly elderly clientele gambling small amounts of money with prizes such as gift certificates to Publix Supermarket. The trial consisted of absurd, petty arguments such as the degree of “application of skill” that was involved in the machines, before Fontaine was acquitted of all charges, in effect legalizing this type of adult arcade. The legal hurdles that both paramutual facilities such as race-tracks and jaki-alai facilities, and even the Seminole Hard Rock Casino had to jump in order to install slot machines designated as “Las Vegas-style” were vast. The Seminole Hard Rock’s new slot machines are already being challenged in court by members of Florida’s legislature, according to The Miami Herald on March 13.

“I am against the Lotto, it’s just the epimede of irony that the same state that decrives gambling engages itself in the practice, using the argument that the money will go to education in order to legitimize this fact.” Joe Donzelli, Lee County School District spokesman told the (Ft. Meyers) News-Press on March 2. “There’s a huge mismatch when it comes to the effect the Florida Lottery has on education.”

According to Donzelli, while the district is grateful for any extra money, the stipend it receives from the Lotto is currently enough to operate the schools for three days. Just under nine percent of players in the first week of the new lotto gimmick purchased one of the add-ons, which Lottery officials expect to increase sales by at least 25 percent, according to the Sun-Sentinel. Based on the amount of publicity this change was given, it would seem that the number of people doling out the extra cash will only decline after the expense becomes too great, leading one to believe that any impact on revenue had by it will be exploitation of already highly taxed Floridians.

Eric M. Feldman can be reached at eric.feldman@fi usm.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 year 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 demonstration 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 threat to genocidal regimes in the Sudan, Iran and Burma.

The parallels are clear. In March, 1939, 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 protests and calls for a boycott of the Beijing Olympics. We at FIU know the Dalai Lama. He has visited 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 means a great deal to ordinary Chinese, with whom he has no quarrel. The real factor that makes for this determination is the Chinese. The Chinese made the Tibetans tough and determined. Moreover, 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.

Nathan Katz, Ph.D. is a professor of religious studies

“...I dislike the lottery because it is a tax on the stupid.”

“...I love it because it pays for education.”

Eric Feldman
Just bring your empty cartridge to the CVS/pharmacy campus store, 1549 SW 107th Avenue. We refill all major inkjet cartridge brands.
Promising entertainment in April

With the summer movie season coming up, the next few months are sure to have their fair share of blockbuster comedies and action movies. April should provide a nice transition into that period, with a variety of funny and serious movies.

**LEATHERHEADS** (APRIL 4)

Back before multimillion dollar contracts made protecting the players the most important part of the game, football was a far more brutal sport than the one currently enjoyed by fans.

It is this game that is the basis for director and star George Clooney's new comedic comedy, "Leatherheads." Taking place in the 1920s, "Leatherheads" follows a team that is trying to move from empty fields to packed stands with the help of a hotshot war hero, played by Jim Carrey.

While it is a romantic comedy, with both Clooney and Krasinski fighting for the affection of Renee Zellweger, "Leatherheads" is sure to have enough physical comedy and slapstick humor to cut through the romance for the guys in the audience.

**STREET KINGS** (APRIL 11)

Starring Academy Award-winning actor Forest Whitaker, an actor best known for playing a doctor with a limp (Hugh Laurie) and an actor who has made a career with exactly one emotion (Keenan Reeves), "Street Kings" is one of the more highly anticipated crime dramas of the year.

Reeves plays a detective whose partner was murdered and spends much of the film trying to wade his way through the streets to find the killer while working his way around the politics of the police force.

With a big cast, this should be one of the more entertaining movies of the month.

**FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL** (APRIL 18)

With everything else he has touched turning to comedic gold, it is hard to imagine Judd Apatow's upcoming film, written by and starring Jason Segel of "How I Met Your Mother" fame, not continuing in that vein.

Loosely based on his real life relationship with "Freaks & Geeks" co-star Linda Cardellini, "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" finds Segel's character, Peter, completely lost in love after his television star girlfriend (the title character), played by Kristen Bell, dumps him out of the blue. In an attempt to forget, he takes a trip to Oahu, but finds himself checked into the same hotel as Sarah and her new boyfriend.

Featuring many of the same actors of "Anchorman," this movie not being at least as popular as its older movies.

**BABY MAMA** (APRIL 25)

Re-uniting the former "Saturday Night Live" co-stars Amy Poehler stars as Tina Fey's surrogate after Fey, a straight laced business executive, finds out she is incapable of becoming pregnant herself.

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.

Japanese farce "Underpants" comes to FIU

STAFF WRITER

Johnathan Davila

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 theatre 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 banned in 1911 by the German government for being "immoral."

"The play was written at a time of expressionism. [It] was a lampooning of the middle-class. Now, [the farce] is about women gaining power," Neal said. "It's about a woman finding herself and her voice in a male dominated society," said FIU student Kat Moreno, who plays Gertrude Deuter.

The play was adapted by Martin in 2002 and originally performed in New York at the Classic Stage Company. According to Neal, Martin includes most of Sternheim's original dialogue—something that presents a challenge in directing the play since the dialogue, although in English, was meant for Sternheim's German audience from the 1900's. Now that the play is being brought to FIU, Neal has made it his mission to ensure the play was originally banned in 1911, Neal assures the play is still safe grounds for the squeamish.

"I don't see it being controversial to a modern audience. In 1910, in Germany, to even show underwear would be a scandal. [This is a] very innocent play. It's naughty, but fun," he said.

When asked if FIU Theater would be putting away from that pushes the envelope, Neal suggested that he believed so.

"We want to shake things up. We want to show people that theater has a function in society. Theater makes people, think, laugh, cringe and change. This play will make us laugh at the way we treat women," he said.

Tickets for "Underpants" are priced at $8 for students, alumni and senior citizens, and $10 for the general public.

To purchase tickets or obtain more information on the farce, call the FIU Theatre box office at 305-348-3789 or visit their website at www.fiu.edu/theand."

"As long as [the play] somehow mirrors what is happening culturally, FIU will put it on," Moreno said.
Advertisements, monetary gain drives MLB’s journey to Japan

Many baseball purists consider it a disgrace that the MLB is figuratively whooring itself out when it goes overseas.

May one day they’ll try out 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!

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Detroit reliever pitching five innings, Golden Panthers’ offense falls short

Despite reliever pitching five innings, Golden Panthers’ offense falls short

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SPORTS

The Beacon – March 28, 2008

7
Two-time champ pounces Golden Panthers’ starting pitching

LUCA MESSINA
Staff Writer

Baseball Opening Day held in Japan; owners try to maximize profits

Coach revisits No. 1 team he helped build

LAUREL MESSINA
Staff Writer

So why go there?

Well, it all comes down to dollars and cents.

Sure the Japanese send a throng of media to cover national heroes such as Ichiro Suzuki of the Seattle Mariners, Daisuke Matsuzaka of the Red Sox and Hideki Matsui of the New York Yankees.

It’s not hard to imagine many in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins baseball-loving countries (in many in Japan owning jerseys or Florida Marlins)

The Boston Red Sox and Oakland Athletics kicked off Opening Day of the 2008 Major League Baseball season just like America’s pastime should – on another continent, while the rest of the teams are still in Spring Training.

Every four years since 2000, MLB has sent two teams to Japan to start the season.

While this goes along with MLB’s philosophy of developing heavy international exposure (along with the World Baseball Classic), doing it in Japan is just plain silly.

The Japanese have practically adopted baseball as their national pastime and have seen many former Major Leaguers emerge from their professional teams.

You could argue that Japan loves baseball even more than we do in the USA.