Online voting to aid in SGA elections

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. News Director

The democratic process might be a bit dicey in other parts of the Sunshine State, but here at FIU, voting for student government office should run more smoothly, thanks to new online voting procedures.

On April 1 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and April 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. students will be able to log onto their my.fiu.edu account with their Panther ID and make their selection for every office available.

“This will make voting so much easier,” said Gerardo Gomez-Galvis III, SGC-BBC elections commissioner in an earlier story in The Beacon.

Along with online voting, students will be able to vote in the computer lab in the Graham Center or on the first floor of the Green Library at University Park and in Academic 1 at Biscayne Bay Campus. To vote in person at these locations, students will need their Panther ID cards, according to the SGA Web site.

Students who are on BBC for more than half of their credits will be able to vote in those elections, while those at UP will only be able to vote in UP elections.

“The way it works out is the majority of your classes have to be at a certain campus in order to vote for one campus,” said Gomez-Galvis.

While online voting will make things easier for students, once again students at the Engineering Center will not be able to vote in person as SGA was unable to set up a polling site on the campus.

Election results will be announced on April 3.

Chris Towers can be reached at Chris.Towers@fiusm.com

THE GREAT DEBATERS

Students may face increase in auto thefts on campus

DAVID A. BARRIOS
Staff Writer

Students who leave their belongings in their cars on campus might be at an increased risk this year for theft, according to numbers provided by Public Safety.

According to the department, car theft, burglary and robbery in 2007 are sure to mimic 2006 numbers, when the University experienced the highest car related crimes in three years.

“First of all, we need to realize that we are living in an urban environment. We’re in an area where there will be a lot of lurcery,” said Chief Bill King, director of Public Safety.

Though last year ended with an undisclosed amount of automobiles robbed or burglarized because Public Safety has not yet complied their report, there were 63 automobile thefts and 74 car burglaries reported in 2006.

The number of auto thefts at FIU in 2005 was 17, and in 2006, the number spiked to 63: an almost 270 percent increase.

As of March 28, 2008, 20 cars have already been burglarized, robbed or vandalized at FIU.

“The numbers that we have are not inconsistent with other schools in the South East area of Florida. I’d like to mention the reason that we’re in a better situation that other schools around Miami is that this is a closed campus with not too many entrances. It’s easier to protect,” King said.

The University of Miami’s public safety department reported, however, that in 2005 there had been only eight auto thefts and a trend that suggests numbers will remain at that area.

Barry University’s public safety department reported only three auto thefts on-campus, with three auto burglaries in 2006.

King recognizes this is a very attractive place for thefts and burglaries due to the high amount of traffic.

“Where else are you going to find 10,000 cars in one place?” King said.

There is likely an issue with the given numbers, since there are students and victims of burglary who do not report these crimes to Public Safety.

These students question whether their insurance company will cover the damage or if they feel the damage repair is cheaper than their deductible.

BURGLARIES, page 3
**THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS**

**MARCH 31, 2008**

**K-Swiss & Foot Locker’s Free Running Tour:**
7 p.m., Recreation Center

**Charity Ball International:**
9 p.m., WUC 155 (BBC)

**SGA Elections Results:**
3:30 - 5 p.m., WUC 155 (BBC)

**SOC Banquet:**
3:30 - 5 p.m., WUC 155 (BBC)

**SGA Elections:**
WEDNESDAY APRIL 2

**Honors Council General Meeting:**
3 p.m., Graham Center 140

**Cosmic Wii Strike Out:**
7 & 10 p.m., Graham Center Computer Lab

**SPC UPoor - Pauly Shore Comedy Show:**
7 p.m., Recreation Center

**SGA General Meeting:**
9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Graham Center Computer Lab

**Strike Out Barbecue:**
9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Graham Center Computer Lab

**SPC UPoor Kick Off Party:**
8 p.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

**TUESDAY • APRIL 1**

**SGA Elections:**
9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Graham Center Computer Lab

**Honors Council General Meeting:**
3:30 p.m., Graham Center 140

**Cosmic Wii Strike Out:**
7 p.m., Everglades Lounge

**SPC UPoor - Pauly Shore Comedy Show:**
7:30 p.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

**WEDNESDAY • APRIL 2**

**SGA Elections:**
9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Graham Center Computer Lab

**SGA General Meeting:**
4 p.m., Graham Center 140

**Strike Out UM:**
6 p.m., Panther Stadium

**SGA General Meeting:**
3:30 - 5 p.m., WUC 155 (BBC)

**SGA General Meeting:**
3:30 - 5 p.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

**THURSDAY • APRIL 3**

**SOC Banquet:**
7 p.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

**SOG Elections Results:**
12 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

**SPC Movie - “Rendition”**
7 & 10 p.m., Graham Center 140

**Panther Power - Relax, Relate, Release (R3):**
9 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)

**FRIDAY • APRIL 4**

**Saturday • April 5**

**Charity Ball International:**
7 p.m., Recreation Center

Compiled by Kassandra Pool

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**Meet the Candidates**

**Jen Ruiz**

**Q:** What are your qualifications for running for SGC-UP president?

**A:** I have participated in different leadership development programs such as Academy of Leaders and College Leadership Development Program. I am currently involved on campus through organizations and honor societies. I have further developed my professional skills by participating in the Executive Directorship Initiative Program hosted by Career Services.

**Maria Cedeno**

**Q:** What are your qualifications for running for SGC-UP VP?

**A:** I have participated in different leadership development programs such as Academy of Leaders and College Leadership Development Program.

---

**Paige LaPointe**

**Q:** What are your qualifications for running for SGC-UP VP?

**A:** I have been one of the most rewarding experiences of my college life and one that I will never forget. I don’t think I deserve the position but I do think that I am ready for it. Not because of a title but rather for what I believe I can do to further the interests of the student body of FIU.

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**A.J. Meyer**

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Public Safety report echoes students’ concerns

BURGLARIES, page 1

“It is very often a wave of criminals. Sometimes, we will arrest a suspect or a group of suspects and what will result is the quelling of the numbers,” King said.

In a 2007 interview, King did say that it is very difficult to deal with auto thefts in FIU, since almost all cars stolen are taken off campus and are hard to track after the initial investigation, due to Public Safety’s limited jurisdiction.

Students have expressed concerns about their safety and the security of their belongings in the parking garages and on campus in general, as well.

“Well, I’m concerned that there isn’t enough security on campus. It’s not a situation to be passive about,” said Maite Morales, a freshman at FIU.

Still, some students recognize they can take steps to keep their belongings as safe as possible.

“I think the first step in reducing the number of burglaries is to be proactive in locking our cars and not leaving things such as iPods or stereo display faces visible to the naked eye,” said Andrew Sanchez, another freshman commuter student.

King mirrored this advice and expanded upon it for students looking to keep their property safe.

“Too many students leave things in their car within plain view. It’s an invitation to a burglar. People often leave their cars unlocked or in remote areas and out of clear sight,” King said.

He also suggested that if anyone should see a suspicious character in the parking lots they should call Public Safety at (305) 348-2623.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated March 26, 2008, the story titled “Historic Plane brings art, awareness to FIU” misspelled Madeline Baro’s name.

In the issue dated March 28, 2008, the story titled “Engineering Center still in disrepair” misidentified the dean of the center. Amir Mirmiran is the interim dean.

In the same issue, the story titled “A losing ticket: state contradicts policy on gambling” attributed Joe Donzelli’s first quote incorrectly. The quotation was written by the author of the story, Eric Feldman.

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

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Ana Maria Silva is running for SGC-BBC president, a position she is passionate about.

“Even though I was a dual-enrollment student, all the issues and the student concerns interested me and from the very beginning I wanted to help and support BBC,” she said. “My brother was the current president at the time and I wanted to find out more about the roles in SGA and finally made a decision to apply for Campus Life Board Chair.”

Silva is running for SGC-BBC president, a position she is passionate about.

In an online interview, Paul answered several questions about his campaign.

**Q: What will be your top five goals if elected?**

**A: As Student Government Association president at BBC, my five main goals to accomplish will be: First, diligently voice student concerns and needs. Second, strive for academic excellence and solution to student population issues. Third, enhance student life and campus involvement. Fourth, provide social and interactive activities and lastly, seek leadership, academic and community support recognition.**

**Q: What are your qualifications for running for SGC-UP president?**

**A: The qualifications I have for running as SGC-UP president are my passion, commitment, and interactive activities and lastly, seek leadership, academic and community support recognition.**

**Q: What are some problems you have noticed here at Biscayne Bay Campus?**

**A: I think that the problems at BBC are miniscule in that they only seem larger because of the constant tension with University Park. My goal is not to compete but work alongside them. We are one FIU, and therefore, I will do what it takes to make sure that the mindset and/or misconception about BBC are dispelled.**

**Q: Why do you feel you deserve the position of SGC-BBC President?**

**A: I feel I deserve this position because I am a hard worker who is dedicated to the beautification and development of the campus. I am concerned with the students’ needs and feel as though I can change the perspective of the government from being an unapproachable force, to a body of students that truly represent their fellow students by being available to them. Ultimately, I represent you all!**

**Q: What do you think the most difficult aspect of being SGC-UP president is and why do you think you can handle the position?**

**A: I know the most difficult aspect of being president is organization. I believe I can handle this due to my expansive experience dealing with large amounts of materials being processed all at the same time. I am able to do this while still being able to push forward through the process into the next set of issues. An important trait of organization is proper communication of which I know is a strong trait of mine.**

**Ana Maria Silva**

**Kenasha Paul**

**Shane Gray**

**EDDITH SEVILLA**

BBC Managing Editor

Shane Gray, a hospitality major, has only been working with the Student Government Council at BBC since last semester, but feels qualified enough to take on the position of president—he has an extensive resume to prove it.

“Just take a look at my resume,” Gray said.

Since his arrival on campus in Fall 2005, Gray has been involved with different organizations as member and leader including InterVarsity, a religious organization on campus, and the South Beach Wine and Food Festival.

Gray’s experience as a leader did not begin at FIU. In fact, during the 2004-2005 year, he was Associate Student Body president of his high school, Highline High School, in Burien, Wash. Now, he wants to bring his experience to BBC.

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**ANA PEREZ**

BBC Life Editor

Kenasha Paul, a junior majoring in Creative Writing and a Peer Mentor at BBC, said “I have the passion, drive, and commitment and dear love for the university. I want to serve and serve at the highest level that I can and that is why I am running for president so much.”

Paul is running for SGC president to expand her involvement at FIU.

“Let me be the president that you fight for, that knows how to make the passion work for the best interest of all. I can do that, I have done that, and by electing me, I will do it all over again and more,” she said.

**Paul answered several questions about his campaign.**

**Q: What is your experience as a student leader?**

**A: I have experience motivating students. I have the passion, commitment, and leadership skills needed to handle the position.”**

“**Q: What are your qualifications for running?**

**A: I am running for president because I believe that the school needs a morale captain, as the upcoming year proves to be fiscally difficult for the University as a whole and the State of Florida, this is the time to build pride and a sense of belonging to the students at BBC. I feel that with my experience motivating students as a peer mentor and program director, planning programs and events within the Student Government Council and Panther Power president, I can make those tangible promises of building pride and creating tradition, and changing the scope of how students think about BBC.”**

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**Susan Rodriguez**

Asst. News Director

Ana Maria Silva has been part of SGC-BBC since she was a freshman. She was elected as a senator in the spring of 2006 and was re-elected in the spring of 2007. Silva is running to help make a positive change for BBC.

“I believe with my passion, commitment and desire to help and support BBC,” Silva said. “Even though I was a dual-enrollment student, all the issues and the student concerns interested me and from the very beginning I wanted to help and support BBC.”

“Even though I was a dual-enrollment student, all the issues and the student concerns interested me and from the very beginning I wanted to help and support BBC,” Silva said. “My brother was the current president at the time and I wanted to find out more about the roles in SGA and finally made a decision to apply for Campus Life Board Chair.”

Silva is running for SGC-BBC president, a position she is passionate about.

Nader will deliver a lecture on corporate power at Campus Life on March 29.

He stated that corporations and consumer activists are speaking out against what they perceive as the increasing power of transnational companies.

“Consumers, interest groups and a few ‘opinion’ leaders are speaking out against what they perceive as the increasing power of transnational companies,” Nader said.

**NADER**

**MARCELO GORENSTEIN**

Staff Writer

Consumer activist and current presidential nominee Ralph Nader will deliver a lecture on corporatization of the State 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, in the WUC Ballroom.

In his lecture, “The Corporatization of America,” Nader will be addressing the negative influence of consumerism as a way of life and how students should develop a sense of civic duty in order to fight it.

While courts have interpreted the 14th amendment to protect the right to commit suicide, Nader does not believe that corporations and private citizens deserve equal consideration; he will be presenting his arguments for the first time at FIU.

Raphael Zapata, assistant director of orientation and recreation at Campus Life, is excited about Nader’s visit.

“Even though politics is closely associated with the name Ralph Nader, this is not just a politician at all,” said Raphael Zapata, assistant director of Campus Life. “Nader is a public figure who is involved in consumer advocacy and it’s a great privilege having someone with his background speak at FIU.”

International Relations Professor Chris Brown was in good spirit when he addressed Nader’s visit would be for students.

“I think it’s great that political and ‘opinion’ leaders are speaking directly to students and this is a huge way of advancing in the democratic process, whether you like him or not is essentially to get not only you to think about the issues but to participate in the process,” Brown said.

As a consumer advocate, Nader founded organizations including the Center for Study of Responsive Law, the Public Interest Research Group, Public Citizen and The Multinational Monitor monthly magazine.

“The life’s mission has been to get people to pay attention to the political process around them, so whether you support him or not in a political capacity, this idea of paying attention to the products that you use, to pay attention to the politics around you and the decisions that affect you directly or indirectly is really important,” Brown said.

Nader announced his campaign for the upcoming presidential election last month. He ran previously as the Green Party candidate in 2000 and 2004, creating controversy when he was accused by some Democrats of “taking away votes” from then presidential hopeful, Al Gore.

“This time I hope he doesn’t hurt anyone. A lot of people know still hold a grudge against Nader because of his decision to run for president back in 2000 and indirectly helping Bush get elected,” said Rafael Timerman, a senior business major.

Timerman added that Nader’s visit to FIU might bring awareness about the issues regarding the corporatization of the State.

“Corporations are involved in attempts to influence the lawmakers in Washington through lobbying. While these groups have no official membership in any legislative body, they can often influence and gain power over lawmakers and set up their own agenda,” Timerman said.

Graduating student Philip Dufresne said in reference to the Independent and Green parties, “Their presence is a good influence because the Republican and Democratic parties are both very conventional, you’re picking from two very similar candidates.”

Nader organized the Green Party’s first presidential campaign in 1996 to challenge the “dual-”

**MARCOS OROZCO**

Senior Staff Writer

2003 Year Book Staff Writer

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March 31, 2008

www.fiusm.com

SGC-BBC presidential candidates discuss goals

Nader to lecture on corporate power in America
Students learn to brave wild world of communications

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Contributing Writer

Communications students got a taste of the real world during the School of Journalism and Mass Communications and AdScene’s Media Jungle Workshop Series on March 27 at the Wolfe University Center ballrooms.

One of the first conferences was given by the Edelman Agency, the largest public relations company in the world, where two representatives came and discussed what it is like to work at a multinational public relations company. Along with Reynaldo Delgado, assistant account executive at Edelman, they discussed how a multinational agency compares to private PR companies where some people manage from their homes. “There is definitely a bigger value you get from a [multinational agency]. You have more resources because you can connect with other offices around the globe, it’s also multilingual, and above all we are going to have the best reputation,” Delgado said.

Delgado and Florencia Contesse gave aspiring PR majors tips to further their growth in the industry. “You should take internship opportunities, even in the summer,” said Contesse, another assistant account executive at Edelman. “Some companies hire more in the summer because there are less applicants to pick from.”

WSVN-Fox 7 anchor Craig Stevens also attended the event and discussed his career and how to excel in the field of journalism. “[The industry] is very competitive and it can be very intimidating, but once you’re doing it, you are a part of the industry,” Stevens said. “You probably won’t get hired from the top 25, but the most fun you’ll have is in that first low-rate job in the T.V. station.” Stevens recommended that students get as much experience as they can. “You’ve got to have the willingness to commit,” said Stevens.

This year, speakers include Robert Schaps, who will be speaking about his career in advertising as president of Turkel Advertising; Sergio Mankits, an account supervisor in integrated marketing at Zubi Advertising, will focus on students interested in marketing.

Other speakers include Roberta Sandler, who will discuss her role as a freelance journalist, and Ada Sheerin, who will speak to production students about her experiences as a creative producer and director for T.V. station.

“[The industry] is very competitive and it can be very intimidating, but once you’re doing it, you are a part of the industry,” Stevens said. “You probably won’t get hired from the top 25, but the most fun you’ll have is in that first low-rate job in the T.V. station.”

Paradise Afshar
Contributing Writer

Media on Demand brings industry pros to campus

Media on Demand, FIU’s media student club, is hosting its second annual Media Speak event on April 2.

“It is a seminar where professionals speak about the field of journalism so students can get to see what it’s like working in the real world,” said Shervin Bain, president of Media on Demand.

The event will take place in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom from 1-4 p.m. and will give students an opportunity to interact with professionals in the communications field. Due to last year’s success, Media on Demand brought the event back with funding from the Student Organizations Council.

“We did this event a year ago, and we felt that it was very beneficial to the students, so we decided to put on this event again,” Bain said. “It’s an event that will help students have a better outlook on the world that they are being prepped to work in.”

Media Speak is intended to serve as an alternative to traditional networking events. Instead of lectures, the event focuses on interaction between speakers and students. “Most events you just listen,” said Brittany Wright, vice president of Media on Demand. “At this one you can talk and ask questions.”

Each of the speakers was chosen based on their experience in the field of communications. They will be discussing industry struggles and offer insight into their jobs.

This year, speakers include Robert Sandler, who will discuss her role as a freelance journalist, and Ada Sh eerin, who will speak to production students about her experiences as a creative producer and director for T.V. Inc., a multimedia production company. “The main goal is that [students] can learn from real professionals and have the opportunity to get connections,” Wright said.

All students in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications are encouraged to take advantage of the information that will be provided. “It’s an event for anyone in the field who wanted to learn about the industry,” Bain said. “You’re getting everything you don’t learn in class.”

For more information, e-mail mediaondemand@fiu.edu.

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It's time for change and Jen Ruiz and Maria Cedeno are the right candidates to help FIU and its students prepare for some tough times. Ruiz, who is running for president and Cedeno who is running for vice president, are set to help combat the tough times that upcoming budget cuts are going to produce.

Both candidates support maintaining and strengthening various student clubs, programs and organizations instead of trying to create new costly programs. It would be fiscally irresponsible to try and grow during delicate times when public universities' budgets are being cut by the day.

The integrity of the University and its students should be protected first during these rough times to come.

The opposite can be said of presidential candidate Arthur "A.J." Meyer who is currently serving as vice president this year. Meyer not only supports expanding SGC-UP sponsored programs, but also supports the creation of new programs that won't benefit the entire student body.

Ruiz who is a Greek – Delta Phi Epsilon – and Cedeno who is a non-greek, demonstrate the type of diversity that can appeal to all types of students.

We need new ideas and leaders who can understand what students need during the cash strapped times to come.

Shane Gray could have gone to Cornell but decided FIU was the right place to be, and he came a year early. Gray is the leader that will help BBC get through budget cuts public universities across the state are dealing with.

While serving as class president at Highline High School in Burien, Wash., he managed to turn a $25,000 deficit into $160,000 surplus.

It's this type of financial management and creativity that is needed to help withstand the constant barrage of budget cuts being handed down from the Legislature.

One goal Gray wants to accomplish is to cut back on club flyers because it's a huge waste of funds. He would rather put that money back into education.

Not only is his financial planning solid, he also has a vision for the campus.

As opposed to the other candidates who are looking to give BBC its own unique identity, Gray is focusing on bringing University Park and BBC together.

At the same time that he tries to unify both campuses, Gray is going to push for involvement between the North Miami and Aventura community at BBC.

Community involvement is going to be vital in order for the campus to secure additional funding so it doesn’t have to rely on state funds. Gray is making a push to get more involved with the community if elected.

He also understands the relationship between the bay and the campus.

In order to show off the beautiful 200 acres that BBC sits on, Gray wants to promote campus beautification by bringing in art from around the world. He also wants to utilize funds to boost the quality of the residence halls and make it a real advantage to live on campus.

If he is able to achieve all of this, his tenure will have been a success for a candidate and BBC's students.

Admitting to the Sun-Sentinel that new residential units are unfeasible at the moment, Abele is quoted in the article as continuing on with his plans.

"The window of opportunity to build condos has been shut until the markets recover," said Abele. "But this doesn't mean the project won't be built some day."

Mach should appeal this decision to the Florida courts, where the frightening assertion that we can be stripped of our homes and businesses on a whim should be laid to rest once and for all.

Eric M. Feldman can be reached at eric.feldman@fi usm.com
Mars Volta vocalist on band's future, Miami show

JONATHAN DAVILA
Staff Writer

The Mars Volta’s vocalist Cedric Bixler-Zavala spoke with The Beacon in a phone interview on March 27. He discussed the band’s next release, embarrasing stage moments and music videogames.

The band will be performing at Miami Beach’s Fillmore on March 31, 2008.

The Beacon: We were supposed to have an interview at 2:15 p.m., Cedric. What happened?

CBZ: The Mars Volta’s most recent album, Bedlam in Goliath, has been the band’s most aggressive release so far. [Guitarist Omar Rodriguez-Lopez] has said that the next album is actually going to be an acoustic release. Why the change in style?

CBZ: Well, we’ve always kind of had it but there just hasn’t been a lot of acoustic stuff. The first song at the beginning of [Frances the Mute] starts off acoustic but [then] it just becomes a rock song. We’ve always been interested in doing that. Especially after we did ATP [music festival] in England and we had some bands that had a softer side that we really enjoyed.

We were always interested in doing that kind of stuff because people don’t expect it from us. So, you know, it’s just so we can show people that there’s so much more to us than just what they define us as.

People try to describe it to other people and as soon as they get one description, we come out with a record that, I think, redeﬁnes what they think we’re all about.

The Beacon: Seeing that some of The Mars Volta’s songs have Spanish lyrics and salsa inﬂuences, do you look forward to playing in Miami since there is a heavy Hispanic population here?

CBZ: Oh, yeah. Last time we were there was with [System of a Down]. I was really surprised. I forgot about the Latin population there.

It was a great surprise, because, you know, opening up for that band – it was a predominantly heavy-metal crowd – so when we got to open up for them when we were in Miami, it was great.

It seemed like most of the audience was there for us. That was nice.

The Beacon: What do you feel music videogames do for the industry?

CBZ: So far I think it gives people the false idea that they actually know how to play guitar. [Laughs] You know, it’s easy like, if you have a Ramones song.

Then yeah, you can probably learn how to play guitar.

You know, because that’s simple picking, simple music.

I think it gives false hope to young people aspiring to do that. I guess it’s cool. Whatever. I’d rather people go read a book or watch a movie.

The Beacon: There’s a lot of improvisational play in your sets. Has there ever been an improvisation that turned out to be a song? Or have you guys ever meant to record a song completely improvised?

CBZ: Scabdates has a lot of

MARS VOLTA, page 9
CONCERT

Emery

Opening acts augment Emery’s solid performance

GEOFFREY ANDERSON JR. Life! Editor

Seattle band Emery rocked the stage of Ft. Lauderdale’s Culture Room on March 11 in front of a sell out crowd singing – and screaming – along to each word of the band’s almost one-hour set. Emery, touring in support of their latest record ‘I’m Only A Man,’ showed off signs of road lag as vocalists/bassist Toby Morrell and lead singer Ian Thomas spent the night laughing, costuming and singing duties throughout the performance, which featured favorites off all three of the band’s albums and clearly cemented the band’s status as headliner of this tour.

That’s not to say that the opening acts were lackluster. The first two acts, Cries of the Afflicted and post-hardcore band Pierce the Veil, put on energetic shows that in spite of the fact that only a few audience members were visibly moving to the music, Pierce the Veil in particular put on a solid performance as the group belted out a handful of songs from their album ‘A Flair for the Dramatic.’

Unlike Morrell and Thomas, neither Cries of the Afflicted or Pierce the Veil are long time travelers. Cries of the Afflicted is a relatively new band, while Pierce the Veil, in part, owe their success to their former frontman's debut EP which featured favorites off all three of the band’s albums and clearly cemented the band’s status as headliner of this tour.

During opening acts augment Emery’s solid performance by providing a fun and energetic start to the evening, but they don’t carry over to that of indie band As Cities Burn, who didn’t seem to capture the ears of the audience.

The audience cheered loudly when the band played the new song “Rock-N-Rule” and cheered even louder when they played “The Poyntalls Parade,” off their self-titled album. Closing their regular set with the fan favorite “Walls,” everyone was clapping to get closer to the stage to scream the song’s opening lines “Are you listening?”

The band, amidst cheers of “one more song,” came out for an encore and performed “Studying Politics,” a lively and fitting end to an overall fantastic concert.

GAME

WulfGar

WulfGar’s triumphant tale immortalized in new game

GEOFFREY ANDERSON JR. Life! Editor

A hero’s tale is one that is always worth telling. Among the greatest heroes in Norse mythology, legendary slayer of beasts, greater and more powerful than the great King Beowulf, is WulfGar. Here to tell his tale is developer Team Norse.

“WulfGar” is a free online flash game where players get the opportunity to battle it out against a host of different monsters.

Throughout each level, there is a mini-boss about halfway through and a bigger boss at the end of each level. “WulfGar” has two attacks which can be used in combination with a forward walk, jump or crouch. You’ll need every attack because each enemy has a different vulnerability. “WulfGar” can also block most attacks with his shield which will come in very handy – especially in a huge mob of beasts. Defeating enemies will charge up WulfGar’s thunder attack. When fully charged, press the space bar to unleash a devastating attack that will kill just about everything on the screen. Bosses are only vulnerable to certain attacks.

At the start of each boss fight, a hint will be given about how to beat that boss. Don’t worry, we don’t know what it is either! You might have to try a couple of times before you understand the task at hand.

The animation in “WulfGar” is stunning. A graphical style similar to the brush-stroked feel of “Okami” really makes this game stand out.

The music doesn’t fall short either. The soundtrack is bold and perfectly in tune with the action on screen. If you really have a soft spot for angry vikings, Team Norse has you covered with “WulfGar” T-shirts that can be purchased at www.cafepress.com/team-norse.

As long as you’re not expecting any4th century storylines or actual semblance to any Norse hero ever – fictional or not – you won’t be disappointed. Get your Viking on at www.armorgames.com.

MUSICAL

Forbidden Broadway

Play delightfully lampoons hit Broadway musicals

GEOFFREY ANDERSON JR. Life! Editor

Taking its own Spring Break from New York until April 13, the hilarious production of “Forbidden Broadway” is currently running in Downtown Miami’s Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. Fans of Broadway musicals will find themselves laughing as this musical comedy pokes fun at well-known musicals will find themselves laughing as this musical comedy pokes fun at well-known musical productions such as “The Lion King” and “Wicked” by using ridiculous costumes, twisted lyrics and some great music.

Performed in the intimate Carnival Studio Theater, the musical’s cast – Jared Bradshaw, Janet Dickinson, Michael West and Gina Kreiezmar – are all exceptional in their performances, but Kreiezmar definitely steals the show. During opening Act 1, Kreiezmar is dressed as a 30-year-old jobless actress playing “The Lion King.” His costume, a red robe, features little plush toys of Minnie Mouse sitting atop his head.

The audience cheered loudly when the band played the new song “Rock-N-Rule” and cheered even louder when they played “The Poyntalls Parade,” off their self-titled album. Closing their regular set with the fan favorite “Walls,” everyone was clapping to get closer to the stage to scream the song’s opening lines “Are you listening?”

The band, amidst cheers of “one more song,” came out for an encore and performed “Studying Politics,” a lively and fitting end to an overall fantastic concert.

These aspects of the production – the performers and costumes – are complemented by a capable musician at the helm of the piano: Catherine Stormenta, the musical director. Her fast fingers take the audience for a musical journey through works from the aforementioned plays as well as “Spaminolot” and “Hairspay.”

“Forbidden Broadway” does suffer from an inherent weakness, however. If you haven’t seen some of the shows I’ve mentioned, you might feel a bit lost. Nevertheless, that shouldn’t stop theatergoers from watching this Broadway musical before it goes bye-bye.
Rising “indie” band rocks Culture Room

ROSALYN DELGADO
Contributing Writer

“Your’e amazing, man! You’re amazing!” was one of the many exclamations coming from the crowd as Nick Thomas and his band of fellow South Dakotans, The Spill Canvas, hit the stage. The band played to a sold-out house at the Culture Room on the evening of March 25.

From the moment they all huddled in a circle on stage and stuck their hands out in front of each other, in what we can only imagine was a “Go team” gesture, the entire crowd, including those who were only there to see the headlining band, joined in the singing and dancing. The sea of concertgoers doubled as the band’s backup singers, screaming out the chorus to the song “Battles,” an anthem about insecurity in the spotlight, chanting “You’re amazing, man!”

As the set came to a close, everyone was singing along. The crowd was clearly pleased to relax, as they swayed from side to side with their hands in the air—they waved them freely, almost as if they just didn’t care.

The band moved to settle the crowd into what they were about to play a short set, The Spill Canvas managed to flawlessly keep the crowd entertained and pleased their older fans.

The band closed the performance with an impromptu speech that seemed to reflect their opinion on their newfound success. “It doesn’t who were or where we are going, it doesn’t matter if its us or U2, what matters is that you are here tonight and that you support live music, and that’s the reason bands like us or U2 are able to live our dreams! “You’re amazing, man!” these words, shouted from the crowd by an excited fan, proved to be true.
Offense unable to cash in runners in scoring position

SOFTBALL, page 12

Jessica Landau, her fourth of the season, did provide some brief feelings of hope, but the defense of UCF kept those feelings to a minimum and managed to hold its lead through the course of the game.

The Golden Panthers’ first three batters hit a combined 5-for-11 and scored two runs, but cleanup hitter junior Kim Rodriguez went 0-for-3 with no RBI.

UCF’s Tiffany Lane went a perfect 3-for-3 and scored two runs while Hillary Barrow went 1-for-3 with 3 RBI.

Long ball fuels Golden Panthers’ offense all sea-

WORK HORSE: Starting Pitcher Kasey Barrett has pitched over 150 innings thus far this season.

The Golden Panthers’ offense heated up with three home runs against UCF on March 26, which places the team at 46 for the season.

The Golden Panthers have already broken its single season record for long balls with plenty of games left to play in the season. Falk, who has 17 career blasts, finished up his senior season in the fall and left school to train for next month’s NFL draft. He was nine hours short of a business degree.

Heath Benedict, a two-time Little All-American at Newberry College on his way to the NFL, was dead on a couch in his Jacksonville, Fla., home.

When asked Thursday don’t suspect foul play in Benedict’s death. Newberry administrators added that police didn’t think drugs or alcohol were involved, either.

Benedict, a 6-foot-6, 326-pound offensive lineman, finished up his senior season in the fall and left school to train for next month’s NFL draft. He was nine hours short of a business degree.

“He was a big, tough man, but he had a very gentle heart,” Newberry president Mick Zais said. “He was a teddy bear.”

Benedict’s body was taken to a medical examiner’s office to determine the cause of death.

The 24-year-old took part in the Senior Bowl in January, the first Division II player to do so since 2004, and was invited to last month’s NFL combine. There, trainers and doctors put Benedict through extensive tests, Newberry coach Zak Willis said, particularly because he hurt an ankle late last season.

Nothing unusual was uncovered, Willis said. “This is certainly a shock to all of us,” he said.

Some NFL draft predictions had Benedict being selected as high as the third round. The coach said he learned of Benedict’s death Wednesday from one of his players. Soon after, Benedict’s father called to confirm the tragic news.

“This is probably one of the toughest days I’ve ever had as a human being,” said Willis, his eyes red.

Benedict was a native of the Netherlands. He played high school football at the Peddie School in Hightstown, N.J. His family also has a home in Greenville, which is about 60 miles northwest of Newberry.

Benedict was a transfer student from Tennessee who helped turn the Indians into a Division II powerhouse. The pinnacle came in 2006 when Newberry won the South Atlantic Conference title and earned its first-ever berth to the NCAA playoffs.

Benedict considered going pro after that season. However, he was having so much fun, Willis said, he was eager to return for his senior season.

Willis, a former assistant at the University of South Carolina who coached future NFL players in tailback Duce Staley, linebacker John Abraham and receiver Marcus Robinson, thought Benedict had the makeup and talent to play a decade or more in pro-ball.

“If he had stayed at Tennessee, he’d be a first-round draft pick, I have no doubt,” Willis said.

In a 2006 interview with The Associated Press, Benedict said Tennessee’s large campus didn’t suit him. He needed somewhere he could get “more one-on-one” attention from professors, counselors and coaches.

He apparently found that at Newberry. Nick Martin, an outfielder with school’s baseball team, remembered first meeting Benedict in the weight room.

Classifieds

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Thank you for reading!

Now three times a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday!
Football spring training underway in March

Practices open to fans

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Spring training notes

Quarterback Wayne Younger suffered a broken collarbone on Nov. 24. He has done some light throwing, but is not ready.

Bill Legg is the new offensive coordinator for the Golden Panthers.

Fres hman James Wiggins switched from defensive end to tight end on March 25. On March 27, the Golden Panthers put on full gear.

Hughes are trying to move up on the depth chart as Paul McCall has run the offense for the majority of spring training.

McCall led FIU to its first victory in two years against North Texas.

“(Colt and Darold) are doing the right things and they’ve been living in coach Legg’s pocket, putting in extra time watching film and learning their playbooks.”

Compil ed by Sergio Bonilla

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**Big third inning debilitates team, ace pitcher**

**RYAN ABBEY  Staff Writer**

The Golden Panthers (18-22) returned home after an eight-day, seven-game road trip. Despite the grind, it turned out very productive for them as five of those games were against Sun Belt Conference rivals, and FIU came away with four victories.

The successful road trip has driven the team to a prominent position in the Sun Belt with a 4-1 conference record despite being 18-22 overall. Their first home contest would not mirror their successful conference run as the Golden Panthers fell 9-5 against the University of Central Florida Knights on March 26 at University Park.

Driving in runs seemed like a problem for the Knights until the third inning when they broke through with the deciding inning of the game.

Golden Panther starter Kasey Barrett (14-11) was making it difficult for the Knights’ hitters to look like an offensive force.

She didn’t give up a hit in the first two innings and struck out two batters.

The third inning, however, was a completely different story as the Knights roughed up Barrett with six runs on seven hits.

The Golden Panthers’ ace is well deserving of the position despite her poor showing.

She leads the team in a host of statistical categories, including ERA, innings pitched and starts.

During the last weekend series, she managed to make an appearance in all three games including a complete game.

Also, Barrett has pitched nearly twice as many innings as all the other pitchers on the team combined.

Normally, scoring is never a problem for the Golden Panthers. But against UF, they had a habit of leaving runners on base and hitting into ground-outs and double plays.

The team was 2-for-7 with runners in scoring position and left seven runners on base throughout the game.

There were some bright spots to appreciate.

**After the disastrous third inning,** the Golden Panthers’ offense tried to rally and managed to outscore UCF 5-3 for the remainder of the game.

Ashley Faulk was all over a pitch in the seventh, sending it to straightaway center field for her ninth home run of the season.

An earlier home run in the bottom of the fourth from...