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FATAL ATTRACTION?

A worker sets the safety restraints at the Doppel Looping, one of Miami-Dade County Youth Fair's most popular rides.

“If it is not often that we have a mechanical error,” said Mike Rinehart, corporate director of safety for North American Midway Entertainment, the company that provides the Fair’s rides.

According to its market department, The Fair changed its service provider from Conklin Shows to North American Midway approximately two years ago. The switch took place after several serious ride incidents in the recent past, the question of producing fear by sending off the event will be investigated by the state.

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Safety of Fair’s oldest ride under speculation

accidents occurred under Conkin Shows. In 2004, Gravitron, the spinning spaceship ride, fell apart while fair-goers were riding it. Three people were ejected and one was left in a coma. As a result, the Gravitron and all of its versions were banned from being used at The Fair. “[Rides] are inspected once each day and sometimes during operations we also check blocking, connecting pins and bolts around the track,” Rinehart said.

Currently, the one ride with the most uncertainty as to its safety is also The Fair’s largest attraction—the Dopple Looping, also known as the Double Looper.

Designed by Anton Schwarzkopf, it sports a 93-foot drop and reaches speeds of 52 mph over 2,200-foot long track. Schwarzkopf coasters were among the first to successfully incorporate loops into roller coaster layouts, but one of the most notorious roller coaster crashes of all time involved a Schwarzkopf design in 1986 at the West Edmonton Mall in Alberta, Canada. A wheel came off the coaster’s train and the car derailed, killing three people.

Subsequent investigations revealed the ride was not properly maintained and the crew had ignored safety guidelines. The Dopple Looping is scheduled to be decommissioned at the end of this year’s Fair. It is the oldest roller coaster at The Fair.

According to a May 5, 2005 article by John Tureky in The Indianapolis Star, 85 percent of on-ride accidents are due to people failing to follow ride safety rules.

Ten percent are due to human error in operating the ride and the final five percent are due to malfunctioning rides.

“The odds of being hurt while riding a roller coaster are nearly astronomical,” said Michael Hupalo, Youth Fair field director of safety. “Many more people are injured by garden hoses, household products or lightning strikes than injured by a roller coaster.”

According to Rinehart, The Fair’s roller coasters are controlled by computer programs that alert staff if a problem could arise during operation. Also, The Fair uses specialized weather equipment to monitor local storms, as the greatest risk to any tall ride is a lightning strike.

Class initiative creates opportunities for students

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Class initiative creates opportunities for students
Event combats sexual violence

ANA PEREZ
BBC Life Editor

Take Back the Night aims to demonstrate the prevalence of violence and rape, while helping victims reconcile their experiences. On April 10 at 7 p.m., the Women’s Center will host the 4th annual event in the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square. The square will be lined with shoes, each with a story attached that equates to the prevalence of violence and rape, including those who are raped or sexually assaulted. Lourdes Martin, co-chair for Take Back the Night, explained the event.

“Sexual violence is still a taboo subject, we are hoping we can start a dialogue in an effort to break the silence and promote awareness,” said Martin, director for Victim Advocacy Center.

Betty Mathurin, a former work student for the Women’s Center and an active participant in the event, further illustrated.

“Along with notifying the students of sexual assault and violence, the shoes are also donated to homeless shelters like Camillius House,” said Mathurin, a junior majoring in psychology.

According to Martin, the majority of rapes are done by someone the victim knows, not a stranger.

“Anywhere from 65 - 87 percent of rapes are committed by someone that the victim knows and with Take Back the Night we are trying to shed light on this,” Martin said.

Participants will walk through the school chanting empowering mantras such as “No means no; yes means yes;” and “Women and men unite; take back the night.”

Victim Advocacy, Counseling Services and the Wellness Center will be there to answer questions.

“After the incident happens, everything is dark and you feel dull, so Take Back the Night is uplifting and encouraging in saying don’t let it keep you down,” Mathurin said.

The following are sushi restaurants within a 5 mile radius of BBC.

1. Hiro’s Sushi & Yakatori Bar, 3007 NE 163 Street, North Miami Beach - Hiro’s has the personality of a drunken Saturday night. Once the weekend sun sets, this neighborhood favorite turns on the techno music and serves more green tea martinis than any other sushi bar on my list.

This is the place for a great midnight snack.

It offers an excellent atmosphere and late hours, it is open until 3:30 a.m. At first, ordering a la carte might seem expensive, but it is part of the sushi bar experience.

My favorites include the hosomaki - your favorite fish or vegetable wrapped in Japanese rice and seaweed - and especially the avocado rolls. Although the avocado roll is not a traditional Japanese dish, this South Florida twist on sushi is served fresh, ripe and full of flavor.

I wouldn’t suggest the salmon skin hand roll. It was the only disappointing moment of my meal. The service at Hiro’s was quick and prices were average - about $20 per person including tip. I give it three out of five stars.

2. Miyako, 18090 Collins Avenue, Sunny Isles - Miyako is one of my favorite spots for when I am ravaged with hunger and craving sushi rolls at a cheap price. Miyako offers an all-you-can-eat menu for only $12.99 per person. Unfortunately, this might not be the best sushi bar for sushi lovers - not enough variety is offered on their menu.

Although I think this is a great spot for budget diners, year after year it seems to gain more faults.

The restaurant rarely has more than two servers on the floor at a time. Add to this, the tourist impact from the surrounding beach resorts and the service is sometimes downright infuriating.

Fortunately, the wait-staff is friendly and unassuming. Also, the salmon skin hand roll is probably one of the best in Miami. I give it two stars.

3. Thai House II, 225 NE 163 Street, #5, North Miami Beach - Thai House II is not a Japanese restaurant, but besides serving authentic and delicious Thai dishes, like tom yong good soup and red curry, they have a traditional sushi bar.

For sushi roll lovers, the hosomaki combo - containing a cup of miso soup and one each of the salmon baged, tuna, and California roll - is moderately priced and will leave you stuffed for days.

Sushi Siam, 19757 Biscayne Boulevard, in the Aventura Mall - Sushi Siam is the perfect destination for an expensive night out.

A fusion-style menu features amazing house specialty items, like the avocado and crab avocado salad, served with a bed of greens, shoestring fried potatoes and a ginger vinaigrette. This salad is a must-try and worth the price at $8.95.

The sushi has also evolved with their fusion menu resulting in unique sushi rolls incorporating atypical sushi ingredients like duck. But don’t visit on a college student’s budget because the average check, including tip, is usually between $30-$50 per person.

This is the perfect date night.

I took it upon myself to survey local sushi joints near the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Why? Well, I love sushi and I’m sure other students do too. Also, I feel the surrounding sushi restaurants each have their own personalities.

For example, the sushi scene is raw and full of flavor.

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**Take Back the Night**

**LIZARD SKIN:**

David Reyes, hospitality major, photographs an iguana basking in the sun in the parking lot at the north end of the Wolfe University Center.

On April 9, 2008, **t**

_Article continued..._
Don't seat delegates without recount

RICK MARTINEZ
Online Director

Michigan and our great state of Florida have been in the news rather often lately, all over a new controversy about how primary votes in those states will be valued. It seems like the plague has hit once again.

On Jan. 29, a primary vote for the Democratic presidential nominee was held in Florida. Many of us voted and many of us did not.

I personally did not vote. I did not vote because it was a busy day for me and I knew the vote wouldn’t count anyway, due to Florida’s Democratic Party breaking convention rules by holding the primary early.

Now as the race to the nomination is truly heating up, people are bringing up whether or not Michigan’s or Florida’s votes should be counted. The argument is that people should be represented in the decision making process, even though their parties made a mistake.

Although I do agree that Michigan and Florida should be included in the nominating process, we cannot use the results of January’s primary votes.

Barack Obama agreed that they would not campaign in Florida due to the situation with the state, but Hillary broke her word. She campaigned anyways and ended up winning the state by a very comfortable margin. Due to this, neither Edwards nor Obama were able to at least try to gain votes in Florida.

Also, because everyone was under the impression that Florida’s vote would not count, some might have elected not to vote since they did not believe it would count. The results in Florida and Michigan cannot be held as accurate representations of how the states’ populations feel about the candidates. The only way that that our votes can be included in the process is by allowing candidates to campaign and hold a re-vote.

If we can’t have a fair and just primary election, which is something that is so critical, I would like our state’s voices to be heard, but only if the candidates get a chance to evenly campaign here and the voters believe that their votes will actually count.

Michigan declared on Friday that they will not hold a re-vote and that they will not hold a re-vote.

I am totally grateful for the Green Movement. However, the idea of saving money, gas and the environment is not lauded by FIU’s Department of Parking and Transportation.

Why do I need to pay the parking fee? It isn’t even used in the summer. Why do I need to pay the parking fee? It is too difficult and nearly impossible to plan and execute in time for the convention. Florida Democrats have already made that declaration.

So what is to happen to our votes? I think they should be scrapped because they are tainted. The most accurate representation of how the country feels about the candidates can best be calculated by the results of the other states where candidates have campaigned fairly and where voters knew their votes would actually count.

Michigan and Florida should be included, but we cannot use the results of January’s primary.
New Bond film focuses on visual flair

RYAN PEARSON
AP WIRE

After getting the bad end of his own ax in a fight, a bloodied villain limps alone in a stark desert. Mathieu Amalric stumbles to the red, rocky ground. “CUT!” rings loudly from the set of the 22nd James Bond film. Picking up an hour after “Casino Royale” left off, “Quantum of Solace” is the spy franchise’s first direct sequel. Filming began in January and has taken the crew from Britain to Panama, to this moonlike landscape in northern Chile. It’s a place that director Marc Forster said evokes Bond’s “isolation and loneliness.”

“He is an assassin, he is a secret agent and that reflects a certain lifestyle, which is lonely,” Forster said. The question is: Do audiences want an “emo” Bond? Craig says not to worry too much.

“We’re not making a kitchen sink drama here. We are making a Bond movie,” he said. “What Marc wanted, and the producers and I wanted is to bring back a visual flair to the movie, so that every frame in every shot that we see is beautiful. There may be things exploding, but they’re good to look at.” Forster is the youngest Bond director at 39. Longtime producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson hired him because of his emotionally intense films like “Monster’s Ball” and “The Kite Runner.” Despite the heightened realism of the last Bond film, not to mention its commercial success of $500 million worldwide, the German-born Swiss director was wary of joining the bombastic franchise. Forster negotiated with producers to ensure he had as much creative control as possible on the over $200 million production. Nevertheless, he’s still squeezed into the framework of Bond.

“I like it because you feel like it can make you very creative,” he said. “And a lot of interesting things come out of that. Because, if you look at filmmakers that worked under politically repressive regimes, [they] sometimes made really interesting movies.”

Filming is about halfway complete on “Quantum,” which is the name of the organization Bond is seeking to defeat. Craig said the emotional tone is slightly lighter than that of “Casino Royale.”

“It’s kind of Bond’s journey; at first we think it’s vengeance, but it goes somewhere else,” Craig said. “They’ve killed the love of his life, this organization, and we don’t know who this organization is, and he needs to find out who they are. It’s for personal reasons but also professional reasons.” Craig said that aside from some communications equipment, “Quantum” puts little emphasis on gee-whiz electronics.

“The Aston Martin’s there, and that’s still the best gadget we have,” he said.

Craig, muscles flexing under a dark polo shirt, said he was exercising more than he had on the “Casino Royale” set, to avoid injuries when doing his own stunts.

“It’s just not very Bond-like,” he said. “Bond should be able to do ten press-ups, then smoke 60 cigarettes and then drink a bottle of something and pop a pill, I think.”

Now comes the eternal question: What’s next for Bond?

Craig, who turned 40 while filming in Panama, said he’d keep playing Bond — so long as the quality remains high.

“I want them to stand alone and be good films,” he said. “As long as that continues, then we’ll keep making them. And if it doesn’t, then we’ll stop.”
Help those in need with your outdated electronics

The end of the semester heralds a time of renewal as you shake off the weight of deadlines and finals to embrace temporary academic freedom. You may need to shake off more than just memories of caffeine fueled all-nighters. You might just have mounds of electronic waste that need sorting out.

Now don’t throw away your old electronics just yet. According to Consumer Report’s www.GreenerChoices.org, electronics contain lead, cadmium and mercury that can contaminate municipal drinking water when tossed in landfills.

Whether your four year old iPod is on the verge of clicking its last click or you just can’t bear living with month old gadgets, start summer right and recycle your old tech toys the right way - give them to someone in need.

Ease the guilt of buying a $400 iPhone and donate your old cell phone to help homeless kids across the U.S.

In partnership with Youth-Noise, StandUp for Kids and Children’s Health Fund, Virgin Mobile will take your old phone and resell it at a reduced price to people in need. The profits from these sales then go to the partner charities to help fund outreach centers, and provide health care and education to homeless kids.


Founded in 2004 by then 13-year-old Brittany Berquist and her 12-year-old brother Robbie, CPFS also accepts monetary donations to send prepaid calling cards to active duty soldiers.

Stop by your local AT&T wireless store to drop off phones you want to donate to CPFS - the company is using all 1,800 of their national stores as collection points now through July 2008. Got an old desktop or notebook computer to jettison?

Your old computers can be given to the Make-a-Wish Foundation to make children’s hospital stays more comfortable. Working with some Disney magic, Make-a-Wish will not only take your old computers, but mp3 players and gaming consoles as well.

If you’re a computer technician, you can also volunteer your tech savvy to help get these gadgets up and running for the kids. Go ahead, share the love of a retro Nintendo Entertainment System with a child, and teach them to get it up and running by blowing hot air into the cartridges - the smile the original Super Mario Brothers theme song will bring to their face will be compensation enough.

If you want to help out needy families, consider donating your old computers to www.ComputersWithCauses.org.

Computers with Causes will take your computer even if it doesn’t work - they’ll make any repairs and upgrades at their own cost before giving it to needy parties - so long as they’re running with a Pentium 4 processor or above. Combined with donor tax benefits and a green “zero-landfill” policy, this charity starts out helping one person and ends up benefiting everyone.

A used computer can also go to an active duty soldier thanks to www.ComputersForSoldiers.Loveyote.com/. Begun as a project to supply soldiers in Afghanistan with computer parts, Computers for Soldiers now aids soldiers’ tech needs from around the world with help from corporations like Best Buy, Crucial Memory and Universal abit Motherboards.

Whether you donate a whole computer or parts to build a custom system, CFS aims to make sure no officer is without computer access while serving their time.

What if you want to spread your e-waste locally and immediately?

No problem! Head on over to your local Goodwill or Salvation Army center and make a donation there. You can also ask your local church or synagogue if they have a need, or can find a place for some used technologies. However you decide to recycle, just do it - you’ll be helping someone get their e-life rolling and helping yourself get closer to living clutter free.

Beloved Readers,

Hairy Dan and Active Dave is taking a vacation this week, but it will return next week. In the meantime, enjoy the third installment of our Diversions page. There’s only one more this semester!

- Geoffrey Anderson Jr., Life! Editor
Golden Panthers look to snap five-game losing streak against Eagles

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Editor

So much for conference success. After some brief early season victories had FIU (11-23) as high up as second in the conference, the team endured a sweep at the hands of Sun Belt opponent Western Kentucky last weekend.

The Golden Panthers now walk into their meeting at Florida Gulf Coast on April 9 ranked third to last in the Sun Belt Conference.

The Eagles will not give FIU any slack, as they boast a 25-8 overall record and are a powerhouse in their Atlantic Sun Conference.

If the Golden Panthers are to stop the bleeding and end a five-game losing streak, they need to stop the lethal bat of Jason Peacock, who gets on base over half of his plate appearances and sports a .480 batting average.

The senior leads the Atlantic Sun in batting by a wide margin.

Unfortunately for FIU, stopping good offensive teams is not their strength.

After Western Kentucky stung FIU for 10 runs on April 6, it was the fifth game in a row the team has surrendered double-digit runs.

The Eagles hit .323 as a team and are sure to light offensive fireworks on FIU’s pitching unless it can improve itself dramatically.

FGCU also holds a team ERA almost under a 3.00, making matters worse for FIU.

The Golden Panthers’ 6.92 team ERA does not match up well with anybody who can hold a bat, let alone an offensive juggernaut like FGCU.

With a .300 average itself, FIU will look for their offense to keep the game close.

Tennis loses against two ranked teams at home

SPORTS REPLAY, page 8

Once the Hilltoppers jumped to a 7-0 lead, they had more than enough support to defeat the Golden Panthers.

At the end, the Hilltoppers had 20 hits.

Despite FIU’s four hits, third baseman Jorge Castillo extended his hitting streak to 28 games.

ULL 10 FIU 9

The Golden Panthers came close to avoiding the sweep in the last game, but they still fell 10-9 in the last game of the three-game series.

With a 9-6 lead headed to the bottom of the eighth, the Golden Panthers bullpen imploded, and the Hilltoppers mounted a comeback scoring four runs in the bottom of the eighth.

The FIU women’s tennis team (9-8) lost 4-3 to No. 44 University of South Florida on April 4 and 5-2 against No. 38 Virginia Commonwealth on April 5 at University Park.

The two losses against the ranked teams broke the team’s four-game winning streak.
CLOSING CALLS

SOFTBALL SERIES: ULL 3, FIU 0

Golden Panthers lose series by five total runs

RYAN ABBEY
Staff Writer

The softball team came close but not close enough during a three-game series against No. 19 Louisiana-Lafayette (27-10, 6-2 Sun Belt Conference) on April 5-6. The Golden Panthers (22-26, 6-5 Sun Belt) are now 4-5 in their current ten-game home stand.

The three-game weekend series against the Ragin’ Cajuns was meant to be a defining moment for the Golden Panthers, an opportunity to gain an advantage against the team with the best record in the highly competitive Sun Belt Conference.

The Golden Panthers stepped into the box with their trademark offense, which produced 18 runs in three games as of April 4, the Owls owned a 9-3 conference record. Even with the sweep, Louisiana-Lafayette co-head coach Stefni Lotief said, “They’re not No. 19 in the country for nothing. They find a way to win. They look like FIU was going to complete an improbable comeback, but ULL starter Ashley Brignac made short work of Kim Rodriguez, Ashley Falk and Jessica Landau, ending the game at 7-6.

ULL 9, FIU 8

In the series finale, the Golden Panthers held the lead briefly thanks to Ashley Falk’s RBI single in the fifth inning, but they gave it up for good in the top of the sixth as they lost 7-4.

“This slappers and their quick kids gave us trouble,” head coach Beth McClenning said. “They’re not No. 19 in the country for nothing. They find a way to win at the end of the day, no matter what it is.”

Even with the sweep, Louisiana-Lafayette co-head coach Stefni Lotief didn’t consider it easy. “This weekend was a hard-fought battle,” she said. “Both teams left everything out on the plate.”

Baseball team is swept by Sun Belt Conference foe

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

Allowing 41 runs is not a relaxing weekend for any team, especially when the same team scores just 16 runs.

The Golden Panthers (11-23) baseball team lost three consecutive games against Western Kentucky Hilltoppers from April 5-6 at Dick Nenes Field in Bowling Green, Ky.

It marked the first time that the Golden Panthers were swept in a conference series.

The weekend series marks the fifth consecutive game where the Golden Panthers allowed more than 10 runs.

ULL 14, FIU 6

Making errors caused the Golden Panthers to allow seven unearned runs during the first game of the double header.

They fell 14-6 to the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers in the first game of the double header on April 5.

FIU starter Chris Allen did not pitch past the fourth inning, and just three of his eight runs allowed were earned. He also gave up six hits and three walks.

A two-out error by Ryan Mollica led to five unearned runs including a grand slam. After trailing 8-0, Allen hit the next batter and was ejected from the game by the umpire.

For the Hilltoppers, starter Bart Carter pitched 5.2 innings, and the Golden Panthers mustered three runs and six hits.

Third baseman Jorge Castillo went 1-for-4 extending his hitting streak to 27 games.

Half of the Hilltoppers’ production came from Chad Cregar. He hit two home runs good for seven RBI.

ULL 17, FIU 1

The most consistent aspects of the baseball team so far this season did not live up to their reputations.

The usually shaky bullpen shut down Western Kentucky for 4.1 innings, but the strong FIU offense hit just four hits.

Little offense coupled with poor pitching resulted in a 17-1 loss for the Golden Panthers in the second game of the double header.

FIU starter Eric Horstman did not provide the pitching staff support, as he allowed 10 runs through 4.2 innings of work.

The Hilltoppers scored in every inning except the third inning.