Budget cuts inspire job search aid

DIANIELA BACIGALUPO
Staff Writer

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Underprivileged schools will get crucial assistance

MARIELLA LOPEZ
Contributing Writer

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Guest speakers give computer safety advice

If you don’t have your wireless secured, at 3 o’clock in the morning, someone can pull into your driveway, look at inappropriate material and, in the morning, FBI will be knocking at your door.

“If you don’t have your wireless secured, at 3 o’clock in the morning, someone can pull into your driveway, look at inappropriate material and, in the morning, FBI will be knocking at your door,” Granto said. After the discussion on wireless security, Benjamin Baez from the College of Education will talk from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The conference begins with free breakfast and a few introductions headed by Granto herself. After the students become situated, the event kicks off with Security Awareness 101, which covers the basics dealing with security presented by speaker John Hill from McAfee, a respected company dealing with computer security.

Later on in the day, the conference will discuss the dangers of having an open wireless network at home. Granto believes students could be getting in trouble for crimes that are taking place in their very own driveway.

“The speech, headed by a member of the FBI, is the most relevant of the bunch as illegal downloading has become a problem among the student body. The rest of the speeches cover topics such as Malware, a presentation headed by Pete Nicoletti of Terremark; Identity theft, covered by a special agent regarding their information and laws that protect personal health information, respectively. The latter has become more important recently thanks to the upcoming medical school. Possibly the most important for students will be a presentation based on the illegal downloading of copyrighted material such as music, movies or any other form of media.

After the discussion, Ben Cabarga from UTS Customer Relations & Communications spoke. “Awareness is really the root of security,” John Cabarga from UTS Customer Relations & Communications said. “You know, we can implement a lot of new technologies but if the users ... are not aware, then there really is no basis for it.”

For more information visit utsm.fiu.edu.

Cheryl Granto, IT Security Officer
Hauptli’s terms coming to an end

VICTORIA GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

Bruce Hauptli, a philosophy professor since 1976, spends his days teaching students about the many mysteries of the mind. But is also a member of FIU’s Board of Trustees and Faculty Senate chair whose mission is to speak for the entire FIU faculty.

“My responsibility is to represent faculty and sometimes even students, at large. I try to be the spokesperson and faculty input,” Hauptli said.

When Hauptli became the Faculty Senate chair, he was automatically given a seat on the BOT.

“I didn’t want to do this, if things were to go well, I should not have people automatically elected,” Hauptli said.

Despite his apprehension of accepting the position, fellow BOT member Marbel Hernandez and current University Park Student Government Council President, was always impressed by Hauptli.

“He is very adamant about speaking for the faculty,” Hernandez said. “His vision is to just make FIU better. He has FIU in his heart and on his mind.”

Hedy First, an administrative assistant in the Faculty Senate, also described Hauptli’s passion for his job.

“I will be mentoring the students,” Hauptli said. “I don’t remember what free time is. I believe my teaching has suffered because this position requires so much attention.”

The new Faculty Senate chair will be elected April 15.

“The last four years have been mostly a full-time job, challenging, but fun,” Hauptli said. “I’m looking forward to becoming a regular faculty member.”

It’s not the first time club tries to help

Focus on issues in third world countries, provide people with the opportunity to help those who do not have the means to help themselves and bring hope to the hundreds of children who attend the school,” said sophomore Maraca Perea, vice president of SFP.

“This isn’t the first time SFP has helped improve the education of students in Nicaragua. The club returned to Nicaragua for the second time this past March with the partnership of Alternative Breaks. Together, they painted over 270 desks, four classrooms and two murals. ‘I got a severe wake-up call about the importance of doing everything within my powers to help those who need it most,” Albuquerque says. “I feel that being a part of SFP has given me the chance to become part of a new family, and I feel that I am taking part in activities that are impacting others.”

SFP is an international non-profit organization. Members have helped in countries such as the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Locally, the organization holds at least one service project per month. This year, SFP members have participated in International Day of Peace; a few projects at Sommerville, a housing community part of Camillus House and a toy drive along with the other organizations on campus.

“I got a severe wake-up call about the importance of doing everything within my power to help those who need it most.

They participated in Ganndhi Day of Service, MLK Day of Service and Relay for Life.

The club recently participated in a beautification project of a canal in Miami Gardens. Potential future projects include traveling to Honduras this December.

“They did my work more than I did my work,” Albuquerque said about the decorations for the gala, said all the service projects are worth the time spent.

“One time you visit and see how the children living, you will want to help them,” she said.

Board selects student media leaders for 08-09

CHARLIE GRAU
EDITOR IN CHIEF (FAUL

CHRIS NIEUZE
EDITOR IN CHIEF (SPRING)

RICK MARTINEZ
ONLINE DIRECTOR

PABLO PENTON
WRGP MANAGER

Hauptli is a man who is totally dedicated to the best interests of this University. First said.

The constitution of the Faculty Senate limits the numbers of terms a chair can serve to two, so Hauptli will be saying goodbye to his positions at the end of the semester.

“It has been an incredibly rewarding time, I will miss it, but the goal is to make FIU better. He has FIU in his heart and on his mind.”

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Call (305) 348-2421 or visit ISSS at GC 355 to RSVP.

ACLU summer membership elections

On April 11 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the College of Law, there will be a meeting of the American Civil Liberties Union to elect positions for their 2008-2009 summer membership conference.

The ACLU summer membership conference will be held from June 8-10 in Washington D.C. and the elections will be send representatives from FIU to attend the conference.

For more information contact Scott Pribble at spring01@fiu.edu.

-Cherry Crowther / Beacon Staff

SGC-UP Notes

April 9 Meeting. Call to Order: 4:07 p.m. Adjournment: 4:46 p.m.

President’s Report (Marbely Hernandez):
- In Washington D.C. to lobby for FIU interests.
- Chief of Cabinet’s Report (Kenneth Gelok):
- Asks all current Cabinet members to list their accomplishments and possible goals for next year’s Cabinet.
- Applications for Cabinet positions now available.

Student Organizations:
- Forums on the Council for Student Organizations, that is replacing SOC, will be held April 14 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in GC 140, April 15 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in GC 150, April 18 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in GC 140, April 21 from 10 a.m. to noon in GC 150 and April 23 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in GC 150.

Academic Affairs:
- Volunteers for Cram Jam on April 21 and 22 needed.

New Business:
- Appropriation “In Support of the Animal Behavior Society Conference” passed for $100.
- Appropriation “In Support of the UTEP Biomedical Engineering Conference” passed for $200.
- Appropriation “International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS)” passed for $100.
- Appropriation “Conference on Architecture, Engineering and Construction” passed for $948.
- Appropriation “In Support of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting” passed for $3,700.
- Appropriation “In Support of the NASA Conference 2008” passed for $150.
- Appropriation “In Support of the FIU Preserve Day Event” passed for $200.
- Appropriation “In Support of the Fifth International Conference for Mesoscopic Methods in Engineering and Science (ICMMES) 2008” passed for $885.
students cruise intercoastal
Event raises $500 for cleft surgeries

Sandra Mateu
Staff Writer

On April 5, students and staff of the Broward Pines Center enjoyed their Spring Social Event and raised money for two cleft palate surgeries.

Made for students to network and socialize, the event was organized by Sumnia Chaundy, Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council representative, Isabel Morales, Pines Center associate director and Pines Center coordinators Leslie Nisbet and Marisa Salazar.

Frank Sinatra’s melodies set the mood for the three-hour boat ride that started at 6:30 p.m. with the yacht entertainer wishing everyone a “Bon Voyage!”

The three-level boat offered food and games in the main deck, karaoke and an all-night DJ as well as a view of the Intracoastal Waterway.

Guests participated in a charity raffle for The Smile Train, an organization that raises money to help children with cleft palates.

“We wanted to do something different with this raffle,” Nisbet said. “We saw The Smile Train organization in an advertisement and thought what could be better than bringing a smile to a child?”

The event raised enough money for two cleft palate operations.

“Thanks to an anonymous donor, we matched the money for two surgeries. It was a great thing to do,” Nisbet said.

The individual donated $174 to complete the goal of $500 for the two surgeries.

Tables were decorated with sky blue balloons, flowers and FIU memorabilia. A buffet dinner composed of chicken teriyaki, Spanish rice and caesar salad was served.

Students did not hesitate to participate in karaoke.

“People were very into karaoke. They seemed to enjoy it a lot,” Chaundy said.

Some students sang while others, like guest Melvin Roane, were content just to watch.

“I am a terrible singer. Not a chance I would get near that microphone,” Roane said. “I just listened and enjoyed,” Roane said.

Other entertainment included Mitch the Magician, raffles and singing.

Prizes were awarded by corporate sponsors such as Starbucks, AMC Theatres and Courtyard by Marriott.

Dessert and coffee were served at the end of the evening while the final three prizes were raffled off.

Surveys were given and collected at the end of the event to gather participants’ impressions of the evening.

“Depending on the response of the survey we will try to plan this event for every spring semester,” Chaundy said.

The ship returned to dock at 10 p.m.

“I am really happy with the outcome. It seems like people enjoyed the event,” Chaundy said.

International Students Club plans trip to discover the Florida Keys

Ana Perez
BBC Life! Editor

Biscayne Bay Campus International Students Club is breaking new barriers by taking students on a trip to Key Largo, with transportation and food provided, all for $20.

Auricel Verne, president of the International Students Club, broke down the gist of the event.

“The purpose of ‘Beach Day’ is to give an opportunity for students who don’t have the transportation or the opportunity to travel outside of campus or Miami to discover the Florida Keys, while meeting other students, and most of all, to relax,” Verne said.

Students will leave BBC at 8 a.m. to arrive in Key Largo at 10 a.m.

The group will be going to John Pennekamp Coral Reef Park, a national park with beaches and different water sports and activities.

After lunch, provided by Great Wraps, a two and a half hour glass bottom boat tour is scheduled.

“We talked about snorkeling first, but that would exclude people who don’t swim, students with disabilities and students who are afraid of the water,” Verne said.

With [this] option, anyone can come and enjoy the reefs without having to step a foot in the water, and the weather would be less an issue.”

Verne expects the trip to be a good networking opportunity for students.

“I hope students will have fun, create friendships, socialize and get a chance to witness the fun we have at the events we host.

“We have members who are students from all over the world, and it’s always a great pleasure to see different cultures to come together,” Verne said.

Nakeia Calvert, a junior majoring in marine biology, is excited to go on the trip.

“I’m looking forward to the trip for the marine wildlife of Key Largo because as a marine biology student, it gives me insight into field research for my future career goals,” Calvert said.

“It’s a good and fun way to meet new and intriguing people who are interested in marine related activities such as boating, fishing and snorkeling.”

“Beach Day represents the first time ISC has planned an event of such magnitude.

“We were asked by many students to have a trip outside of the country,” Verne said. “Unfortunately such a trip involves a lot more organization and a bigger budget. Since it is our first attempt to host such an event, we decided to take students out of town first.”

If the event is successful, ISC said it will consider making it an annual occurrence and adding more flavor.

“This could be our signature event in the future – we’ll just collect students’ feedback and go with that,” Verne said.

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We saw The Smile Train organization in an advertisement and thought what could be better than bringing a smile to a child?
Students urged to take a stand

CHRIS CABRAL
Asst. Life Editor

"This is not fun, this is not a game, a lot of people are going to die." Those were the words of state representative Yolanda Roberts (D-Miami) as she spoke to The Miami Herald about the $3 billion in budget cuts proposed by the Florida legislature.

There is a battle being waged in Tallahassee, and if things continue on their current course, a catastrophe will ensue. The budgets being proposed by Florida’s House and Senate will slash education, ravage the Department of Children and Families, and leave thousands of the state’s most medically needy without access to medication and treatment that in many cases literally keeps them from dying. The only thing that can stop these cuts is a mass public outcry that pushes state legislators to find another way to balance the budget.

And there are plenty of alternatives. Democratic lawmakers and others have proposed numerous other solutions to the $3 billion budget shortfall that lawmakers are using to justify these cuts. The state has over $13 billion in reserves in "The Lawson Chiles Endowment" fund, named for the late Florida governor who championed the causes of education and healthcare for the poor.

The Orlando Sentinel’s editorial board recently expressed support for a $4 per pack cigarette tax that could yield as much as $1 billion and offset the need for some of these cuts. A one-cent sales tax increase could yield as much as $3.5 billion, according to Lakeland’s The Ledger.

And there are numerous corporate loophole funds that could be closed and yield more revenue for the state. And yet, the voices of those who demand another way to balance the budget are being shut out. With every passing moment that their voices are ignored, the state gets closer to approving a budget that will leave a shameful legacy of sorrow and destruction in its wake.

These cuts are an assault on Florida’s students, teachers, and residents who literally depend on some of these programs for survival. Every student at this University stands to suffer, as $2 billion of the cuts are being drained from the state’s education system. Everything from high school class sizes to college financial aid will be adversely affected.

The fact that $2 billion in cuts is being aimed at Florida schools is reason enough for concerned students to act. Yet in the broad and homogenized spectrum of these destructive cuts proposed by lawmakers, students emerge as the lucky ones. At least students won’t actually die as a result of these cuts.

Others might not be so lucky. According to The Miami Herald, the proposed budgets include $1 billion in cuts, from Health and human services. The cuts, according to The St. Petersburg Times, will mean "foster children, pregnant women, newborn infants, kids with AIDS, frail seniors and hospice patients.

The Florida House and Senate are planting to cut between $170 million and $350 million from the state’s Medically Needy program which "covers transplant and catastrophic-illness costs for 20,000 poor people" according to The Orlando Sentinel. As one chronically ill woman who’ll be removed from the program if cuts pass told The Tampa Tribune, "I’d probably just die."

There isn’t enough space in this entire list to enumerate the other cuts which will hurt our state, with millions in cuts being proposed from environmental programs and the court system among other areas. Yet for all the grim predictions, the lives of the seriously ill hanging in the balance, the students waiting to see if their financial aid and chance at a good education will be snatched away, there is one glimmer of hope.

There is still time to lobby our legislators and tell them to look at the many other alternatives there are to gutting public education and slashing healthcare. It is time for the students of Florida from all ages, genders, races and political parties to band together and demand that these cuts be stopped.

We can call Marco Rubio, the Florida House Speaker. His phone number is (305) 442-6939. He can be e-mailed at speaker@myfloridahouse.gov. We tell Florida voters on his Web site he wants to "make sure we [the legislators] hear your voices in Tallahassee." Well, it’s time for us to speak up. Let’s see if he hears our voices.

If enough people contact him and other powerful state legislators, we can force the people in charge in Tallahassee to weigh other options. If they fear that there will be serious political consequences if they go through with this they will back down.

A lot can be done. Yet the people of Florida are running out of time. Students who have a few minutes to spare will make a call, or send a email. After all, what do we have to lose—except everything? For more information visit: http://www.facebook.com/group.

Knocking Nader: Actions speak louder than words

President candidate’s body of work offsets his elitist smarmy attitude

JASON GELLER
Contributing Writer

A presidential candidate must do more than charm voters, which is too bad for Ralph Nader.

He might be the right person to tear apart the stranglehold corporate power has over us. But as a man, he comes across as a slimy elitist.

The 74-year-old Green Party nominee spoke in a deep, phlegmy voice when he asked, "Why should I be arrested for smoking a cigarette in overseas sweatshops by little kids?"

Instead of calling on Bush to boycott the Olympics in China, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi should have called on Americans to boycott our own companies.

Biscayne Bay.

The room was full of plates of assorted cheeses, coffee, puffed pastries and a mush-on-sandwich that looked suspicious.

As I helped myself to some food, Nader walked by.

The reception was in his honor and he gladly took advantage of the snacks. He stuffed his plate with the offerings. I introduced myself and put out my hand.

His mouth was full and he had too many plates in his hand to free himself to shake mine.

But after he sat down and his plates on a table, he couldn’t help taking with taking the time to shake my hand.

That is the Ralph Nader I will remember – which is a shame.

Nader fought for the people all his life. In 1965, Nader wrote Unsafe at Any Speed, detailing the auto industry’s fight against putting seatbelts in cars, just so it could save a few extra bucks. For his investigative work, Nader saved countless American lives.

During his speech, Nader further discussed the stranglehold American corporations have over politicians.

He spoke in detail of the excessive amount of money Exxon lobbyists gave Congressmen, and drew howls when criticizing President George Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney for occupying Iraq to fatten their wallets off of oil.

He said their campaign of fear and terror – which has resulted in more than 200,000 dead Iraq civilians and millions more displaced – distracts America from real safety issues, like cozier safety and health.

He criticized big businesses like Nike for placating to child labor: Nike products are made in overseas sweatshops by little children.

Instead of calling on Bush to boycott the Olympics in China, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi should have called on Americans to boycott our own companies.

Nader continued his vicious onslaught on his favorite target: big business.

He garnered uproarious laughter when he asked, "Why should a guy be arrested for smoking a joint?"
All aside, Routt’s studio does more than just film-related events. “A lot of our events have music involved. We’ve had hip-hop bands and rock bands. [We also] did a fashion show [at Hotel Victor] on South Beach. Presently, Birch Creek Studios has been focused on creating, marketing and delivering full-length movies. If I Were Dictator will be the first full-length production to come out of Birch Creek. The film was written by Routt and inspired by his thoughts on the world today. “It’s a comedy about a guy that is sick of the world. He loses a local election. He comes up with this great invention, and the whole world thinks he’s a genius. Everyone is paying him to rule the world, so he tries to fix.” Routt hopes to premiere ‘Dictator’ before the end of April, and wants to have the first full-length film at FIU, free for FIU students and alumni. “FIU has helped me so much in the past,” Routt said. “He explained that this would be his way of giving back to the FIU community.”

Besides writing ‘Dictator,’ Routt is also directing and acting as the main character in the film. He said that due to all the time and effort being spent on making ‘Dictator’ a success, Birch Creek’s other projects have been put off for now. “I’m putting [all of that other] stuff on hold, just focusing on my movie. Right now,” he said. One event that Birch Creek is not planning to put on hold is another film series called ‘Birch Creek Studio Presents,’ which will feature clips from Birch Creek films, music and Ben McKenzie of “The O.C.” as an open to the public for an admission fee, but attendees may pay an extra fee to speak with McKenzie one-on-one before the function begins. Even though production on ‘Dictator’ has yet to come to a close, Routt has let slip that Birch Creek is actually in preparations to begin shooting their next full-length film, which will be the first in a trilogy. “It’s called ‘The Urban Hard Trilogy,’” he said.

For more information on Birch Creek Studios’ events, films and current or future works, visit the studio’s Web site at http://bcfs.us. To view the trailer of ‘I Was Dictator,’ visit the film’s Web site at http://www.dicatormovie.com/.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT “IF I WERE DICTATOR” PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEB SITES:

WWW.BCFS.US
WWW.MYSPACE.COM/BIRCHCREEKFILMS
WWW.MYSPACE.COM/DICATORMOVIE
DICATOR MOVIE AT FACEBOOK

A MAN INVENTS A DEVICE WHICH ALLOWS HIM TO RULE THE WORLD. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE DICTATOR?”

Animal art draws attention, revenue to zoos

DINESH RAMDE AP WIRE

Brittany wields her paintbrush with confidence, slapping it roughly against the canvas to produce streaks of green or smears of orange. With apparent pride, she steps back, inspects her work — and extends her trunk to receive a freshly loaded paintbrush.

Brittany, an African elephant, is doing her small part to pay her way at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Her artwork is sold at the zoo’s gift shop to raise funds. This painting pachyderm is far from the only artistic animal in captivity. For years zoos and aquariums across the country have encouraged animals “to paint” as a way to keep the penned-up denizens mentally enriched. Typically, the paintings were discarded or set aside. But officials have recently discovered that animal lovers are willing to pay hundreds — or even thousands — of dollars for the creatures’ creations, prompting zoos across the country to study whether their animal artists might be an untapped source of revenue. The Milwaukee zoo’s gift shop sells about 36 of Brittany’s paintings each year for $30 each. “She really seems to enjoy painting — she likes creating new things,” elephant trainer Danielle Faucett said. “But we only do it about once a month because we want to make sure the activity remains mentally stimulating.” Brittany is an eager artist. Her ears flare out as she attacks the canvas, swiping at it almost like Zorro wielding a sword, and she finishes her paintings in minutes while Faucett coos words of encouragement. The menagerie of animals that can brandish a brush is seemingly endless. At zoos nationwide, painters include chimpanzees, kangaroos, ocelots, rapan- das and even a rhinoceros and Komodo dragon, said Jackie Marks, spokesperson for the Association of Zoos & Aquariums in Silver Spring, Md.

One especially profitable painter is Towan, a 40-year-old orangutan at the Seattle Aquarium. For Valentine’s Day, the zoo auctioned a pair of his paintings on eBay for a total of more than $1,300.
Alabama Wine Trail draws criticism from Baptists

JAY REEVES
AP WIRE

CALERA, Ala.—Alabama has all sorts of tourist trails — there’s one for civil rights, another for birds and yet another for old churches.

The newest one was introduced Tuesday to promote the state’s wineries, but Baptists aren’t joining in the celebratory toast.

A trade association and a tourism group came up with the Alabama Wine Trail to lure visitors to the state’s eight wineries, which produce everything from fruity muscadine and peach wines to more traditional varieties such as merlot and chardonnay.

The head of the other organization, Lee Beadles, said overcoming opposition to alcohol is a constant hurdle for any business.

Tom Vizzini hopes the trail will increase traffic at his Vizzini Farms Winery, which produces as many as 75,000 bottles a year.

“We put our wines up against any of them from California,” said Vizzini, whose grandfather was a vintner in Sicily.

But some say the wine can stay on the West Coast.

A Baptist leader in neighboring Chilton County said his group opposed the plans for a winery there and doesn’t like the idea of luring tourists to his home turf or anywhere else in Alabama to imbibe.

“We are on record as being opposed to any kind of alcohol-related industry,” said the Rev. Robert Griffin, moderator of the Chilton Baptist Association and pastor of Highland Baptist Church in Clanton.

“There are a lot of people in this state with wine in their closets.”

Southern Baptist churches claim about a quarter of the state’s population.

The state regulates all alcohol sales, and it drew criticism in October for opening a state-run liquor store in downtown Birmingham on a Saturday afternoon.

The governor intervened, and the agency said it wouldn’t happen again.

The Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association hopes its new wine promotion brings visitors to north Alabama; it’s staying out of the moral debate over alcohol.

“We look at this purely from the tourist perspective,” said Dana Lee Jennings, CEO of the association.

“It’s about introducing a new tourism venue. Folks have enjoyed going through other states and visiting their wineries and shops with homemade cheeses and other things.”

The surrounding states of Georgia, Florida and Tennessee already have wine trails, and Kentucky has a bourbon trail.

“Thank God for Mississippi. We’re ahead of them,” said Vizzini.

Tourist brochures will list the eight participating wineries in Alabama.

Visitors will get a “passport” for workers to stamp.

“Anyone who visits all the wineries will get a wine glass bearing the logos of each company,” Vizzini said.

“And they’ll get to taste some very good wine,” he said.

The trail is made up of members of the Alabama Wineries Association, one of two small wine groups in the state.

The head of the other organization, Lee Beadles, said overcoming opposition to alcohol is a constant hurdle for the group.

Alabama law limits home wine production to five gallons at any given time, and Beadles said his Alabama Wineries and Grape Growers Association hasn’t been able to get too much support for increasing the cap for hobbyists.

“We have such a Bible Belt population that when you say you’re going to increase production ... in this state they think there will be a drunk in every house,” Beadles said.

“There are a lot of people in this state with wine in their closets.”
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Elephants, animals become artists at Milwaukee Zoo

JUMBO ARTIST: Brittany, an African elephant at the Milwaukee zoo, paints her masterpiece.

As lucrative as Towan’s works have been, keepers can only get him to produce a limited number of paintings. “If you try to get him to do it two days in a row, he won’t pick it up on the second day,” said zoo spokeswoman Gigi Allianic. “You can’t make it routine for the animal or they lose interest.”

That’s the challenge for most zookeepers, who say they won’t sacrifice an animal’s enrichment for the sake of making a quick buck.

Also, some animal artists can be as temperamental as their human counterparts. Sea lions ply the painting trade with their mouths — they hold a stick in their teeth from which a paintbrush juts out in a T shape. But when they don’t want to paint, no amount of cajoling can convince them otherwise, said Henry Kacprzyk, a curator with the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium.

“If they don’t want to participate, they’ll just ignore you, they’ll leave,” Kacprzyk said of his zoo’s three sea lions. “There’s not much you can do — they swim faster than we do.”

Artistic “talent” seems as diversely distributed among animals as among humans, zoo officials say. Just as some people are more artistically inclined than others, so, too, is the case for chimps, elephants and so on.

Some animals are eager participants while others turn up their noses — or trunks — at the sight of a brush. Of course, beauty — and artistic talent — are in the eyes of the beholder. People who buy animal paintings are rarely art aficionados. Instead, they’re typically animal lovers who know the money is going toward a good cause.

But some animal artwork can be surprisingly valuable, none more so than three paintings produced in the 1950s by a chimpanzee named Congo. The abstracts sold in 2005 for a total of $26,352 at a London auction where competing works by Renoir and Andy Warhol languished unsold.
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College presidents, athletic directors disapprove of beer advertisements

For more than 100 college presidents and athletic directors, beer and the NCAA men’s basketball tournament don’t mix.

The college leaders — among them the top officials at Harvard, Abilene Christian and Georgia State — wrote a letter to NCAA President Mark Emmert to express their concerns about the prominence of beer advertising “embarrassingly prominent” during tournament broadcasts.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest in Washington, D.C., which helped organize the letter, accused the NCAA of violating its own policies that supposedly limit beer advertising to 60 seconds per hour and no more than 120 seconds per telecast. The center said it counted 200 seconds and 240 seconds of beer advertising during Saturday’s two games.

Even though the Golden Panthers are one of the top hitting teams in the conference, they fall last dead in team ERA and fielding. The team’s faulty defense hurt them against ULL as the Golden Panthers allowed six unearned runs.

During the series, the Golden Panthers lost by a combined five runs.

A more solid defense would’ve resulted in upset wins against the No. 19 ranked team in the country.

The Golden Panthers’ conference leading 57 home runs and 247 runs scored did not help them against an elite team, but those numbers should serve as a powerful tool against a lower tier team like the Blue Raiders.

The Golden Panthers’ starting ace Kasey Barret should also return to dominating form. Despite the team’s three-game sweep, the Golden Panthers are still poised to finish among the leaders in the conference.

**WEEKEND PREVIEW, page 12**

Roughly 200 yards away from the University Park Stadium, the softball team is playing similarly to the baseball team, but with a better record to show for it.

The softball team (22-6) is head on the road against Middle Tennessee (14-18) April 12-13.

After getting swept against Louisiana-Lafayette on May 4-5, FIU has dropped from second in the Sun Belt Conference standings to fourth.

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**TENNIS**

The only ranked team at FIU had its four-game winning streak snapped by the University of South Florida and Virginia Commonwealth on April 4 and 5. Both teams are ranked among the top four teams in the country.

With the 9-8 tennis team going up against 3-14 Florida Atlantic University on April 13, the Golden Panthers’ two-game losing skid should be over.

On April 13, South Alabama (16-3) should be more of a test for FIU.

Despite the team’s superior record, the two teams are evenly matched in terms of ranking.

The Jaguars are ranked No. 47, while the Golden Panthers are ranked No. 45.

**Marilyns will not win division; Tigers to recover from slump**

**VILLARMARZO, page 12**

The season has barely started and there’s plenty of time for teams to heat up or stumble badly.

Come on, do you really think the Mar- lins are going to remain in first place with suspect starting pitching and a bullpen whose arms are going to get blown out by the All-Star break?

As for the Tigers, any lineup with Miguel Cabrera, Gary Sheffield, Magglio Ordonez, Edgar Renteria, Carlos Guillen and Ivan Rodriguez should not and will not be in the cellar.

Then again, there’s always the unex- pected, and I totally broke my own rule with the previous paragraph.

But that doesn’t matter. As the season rolls along, we’ll start seeing more familiar names among the league leaders and familiar teams in the hunt for the division titles.

For the time being, we should all take advice from the famous Greek philoso- pher Socrates:

“All I know is that I know nothing early in the baseball season.

OK, so I may have embellished the last five words.

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TRYING TO BOUNCE BACK

Baseball and softball teams coming off series sweeps

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

The baseball and softball teams both head into the weekend coming off series sweeps, while the tennis team attempts to bounce back from two straight losses. With each respective team’s season winding down, each upcoming series and game is a chance to move up in the Sun Belt Conference standings.

BASEBALL

The baseball team (11-23) heads into the weekend facing one of the more mediocre opponents it has faced in the last two weeks, Middle State Tennessee (13-14-1), from April 11-13 at University Park. Although pitching has hurt the Golden Panthers during their last six games, sloppy defense has also been a big contributor to extending innings, allowing opposing teams to score runs in bunches.

As a result, Golden Panthers have allowed 10 or more runs during 15 of their 23 losses. Against No. 2 ranked University of Miami, the Golden Panthers allowed six runs in the second inning and were not able to recover for the rest of the game. Western Kentucky scored seven runs in the fourth inning against FIU, the game ended in a 17-1 rout.

In addition to bad defense, the usually potent offense has not been scoring timely runs. Infelder Jorge Castillo’s 29-yard run touchdown by running back A’mod Ned contributed to third down passes and McCall led the team of 28 and 32 yards to sophomore wide receiver Marquis Rolle.

Dickens, who had four catches, including catches of 25 and 28 yards. The offensive drive was helped by the defensive squad committing several penalties. “I didn’t like the amount of penalties we had; although I know they were just trying to be aggressive,” said coach Mario Cristobal.

All defensive penalties aside, the defense had its bright spots, including senior Reggio Jones picking up 2.5 sacks.

On the rushing side of the ball, senior running back A’mod Ned contributed to the offense by running for two touchdowns, including a 46-yard dash past the defensive unit after breaking tackles at the line of scrimmage.

On April 8, inclement weather cut the spring football practice midway, and the team was forced to finish the remainder of the practice indoors. “We got a lot of work in, but we didn’t finish some things we wanted to,” Cristobal said. “Once you start a day, you have to finish it.”

“You don’t buy a day back in spring ball. We got plenty of work done with walkthroughs.”

SPORTS

Starting quarterback injured; backups lead offensive drills

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

Last season’s starting quarterback Wayne Younger is still out due to an off-season surgery to his broken collarbone, and he has not seen action in the spring football games.

Sophomore Colt Anderson and junior Paul McCall have taken most of the snaps during spring football practice.

On April 5, Anderson threw two touchdown passes and McColl led the team to three scores. Anderson completed 10 passes for 137 yards with two completions of 28 and 32 yards to sophomore wide receiver Marquis Rolle.

Anderson completed an 8-yard touchdown pass to sophomore James Rucker. McColl led the offense on a 11-play, 68-yard drive, which ended with a two-yard run touchdown by running back Julian Reams.

Starting quarterback injured; backups lead offensive drills

STEPPING UP: Sophomore quarterback Colt Anderson threw for 137 yards and two touchdowns during spring football scrimmage.

TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT’S IN STORE FOR MLB IN 08

Comedy
Xavier Villarmarzo
Copy Editor

The Florida Marlins are in first place? The high-powered and heavily favored Detroit Tigers are winless? What’s going on in Major League Baseball?

There is something off kilter when Milwaukee Brewers catcher Jason Kendall is leading the league with a 523 batting average.

And there’s definitely something weird going on when a player in just his second season – Arizona Diamondbacks third baseman Mark Reynolds – leads the league in home runs and RBI.

Actually, no there isn’t, because it’s only the second week of the season. Anomalies are normal this time in the season, but people always tend to overreact.

There’s really no reason to jump the gun, because as the season rolls around, normality will soon begin to set in.

As of April 9, the Marlins are one game up in the National League East division, leading some fans to believe the team has a shot at a playoff run.

Also, the Tigers and their powerful lineup are 0-7 and have been shut out twice already this season after only being shut out three times all last season, leading some of their fans to think the world is ending.

Teams have played around seven games thus far, which means there’s just a mere 155 left.

Let’s face it; the Marlins are not going to win the division this season, next season and probably the season after.

In fact, division standings shouldn’t even be released until at least 30 games have been played.

The fact that the numbers are there, the fans and beat writers alike to claim insane things very early in the season.

Take last year, for instance, the New York Mets had a commanding lead of the NL East and people were talking about a possible run at the World Series.

By season’s end, they had collapsed historically and lost the division title to the Philadelphia Phillies.

Things like that happen in baseball all the time. You always have to expect the unexpected, but making bold predictions after just seven games is irresponsible and idiotic.

If you take a test with 100 questions and you get the first five wrong, does that mean you’re going to fail the test? Exactly. Not necessarily.

So leave the poor Tigers alone and stop putting so much pressure on the young Marlins.

VILLARMARZO, page 11