University Support Personnel

Workers cope with stresses of looming cuts

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
Staff Writer

The University Support Personnel Senate meeting on April 9 addressed the state budget crisis in a preliminary discussion before today’s town hall meeting in the Graham Center Ballroom.

The USPS meeting agenda centered on the potential impact of the budget crisis on personnel.

According to University President Modesto Maidique’s April 10 newsletter, the University issued a Request for Proposal for a vendor to perform a bundle of services including mail, copying and printing. According to both the letter and the meeting, the proposals have not been evaluated.

Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations Vivian Sanchez emphasized that issuing an RFP does not mean the services will be outsourced, but rather, ensures that all operations will be assessed for savings.

“You will hear recommendations that came out of a thoughtful and exhaustive baseline evaluation of each of our centers and institutes that began last year,” Maidique said in the newsletter.

Recommendaations for cuts will be made based on those criteria, though the newsletter also stresses that nothing will be made final at these meetings.

“You will hear recommendations that came out of a thoughtful and exhaustive baseline evaluation of each of our centers and institutes that began last year,” Maidique said in the newsletter.

Maidique said that more meetings will be necessary before the Budget Stabilization Task Force will be necessary before ultimate approval is given by the Board of Trustees.

The meeting is open to students, faculty and staff, who will be allowed to ask questions of the President and other senior leaders of the University.

Colleges that expect to be especially affected by the cuts are encouraging their students to attend.

To go along with discussion of budget cuts regarding educational issues, the meeting will also include further discussion of issues that were brought up at the University Support Personnel Senate meeting on April 9, which included a potential proposal to streamlining academic units.

Our View:

University’s interpretation of Sunshine Law cloudy

Page 5.

Town hall meeting to focus on budgets

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. News Director

The next Town Hall meeting regarding University-wide budget cuts in the upcoming school year will be held on April 14 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

The meeting will be broadcast to the Biscayne Bay community simultaneously in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms.

In a newsletter dated April 10, University President Modesto Maidique said the main topic of conversation for the meeting will be the process by which the university evaluates colleges, centers and institutes based on how their contributions “fit with the university’s missions of education and research.”

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Additional reporting by Ben F. Badger Jr. / Beacon Staff
Progress announced during meeting

USPS, page 1

Budget cuts leave University support personnel at risk, anxious

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**Budget taskforce meeting closed to media, public**

An hour before the meeting began, The Beacon received an e-mail from the Office of Media Relations stating “this meeting is not open to the public.” The meeting was closed to media and the public. 

The meeting was announced in University President Modesto Maidique’s weekly budget crisis newsletter which is posted on the FIU Web site and sent to student and faculty’s e-mails.

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**Information**

**The Beacon** is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Advertisers are the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by Student Services and are deemed necessary as rumors circulate about the implications toward academics which have included department mergers. The Office of the President’s “Budget Crisis” webpage states that “The budget reductions mean [students] will be in more crowded classes, will have overworked advisors and may take longer to obtain a degree because of fewer opportunities to take the classes they need to graduate.”

Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs and Undergraduate Education, and member of the Budget Taskforce, said she cannot comment on the budget crisis and its affect on students because she did not attend the USPS meeting. The hotline refused to answer academic questions stating that those would be answered during the Town Hall meeting.

Reductions in operation tools like the golf carts and “non-critical” services like the 24-hour Information Technology support are the only clear budget modifications that will take place up to this point, Sanchez said. No one knows if these cuts will be offered.

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**College Democrats End of the Semester Party Extravaganza Festival**

- 6 p.m., Gracie’s Grill

**GSA Awards Banquet**

- 7:30 p.m., GC 150

- 11:59 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

**Midnight Snack Attack**

- 8 p.m., Graham Center Pit

**Panther Power Meeting**

- 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday

**HTS Workshop**

- 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., MPAS Conference Room (BBC)

**Panther Meeting**

- 2 p.m., WUC 157 (BBC)

**Ride the Light Fund-Raiser**

- 3:30 p.m., GC 150

**STARS Workshop**

- 5 p.m., 314-160

**Town Hall Meeting**

- 7 p.m., MEET 360

**USPS**

- 7 p.m., MEET 360

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**Christina Vega**

**News Director**

Camilo Silva, Student Government Association Engineering Representative, held a town hall meeting to discuss his accomplishments and works in progress before his term expires.

Interim Dean Amir Miriman was also present at the College of Engineering and Computing to give an administrative progress report and field questions from the crowd of about 15. Students had University-wide budget cuts on their minds for the first time.

Junior Lizeth Caldera, biomedical engineering major, brought up several questions regarding the cuts after having trouble signing up for summer classes.

“I don’t think you need to worry about much,” Miriman said. “As long as enrollment is appropriate, the classes will be offered.”

The dean said the center will be looking into ways “to readjust” operations, such as offering less popular classes only once a semester and eliminating duplication of services.

“I think the dean has his heart in the right place,” Caldera said. “He seems responsive.”

Silva touched on issues of concern that The Beacon has been following since 2007. One of the top issues was the state of disrepair the Engineering Center has been in since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

According to Silva, FIU submitted paperwork to the Federal Emergency Management Association for funds to repair the damage. However the paperwork was filled out incorrectly, causing the delays in repair. Silva said the paperwork is in the process of being resubmitted.

The Beacon also reported in 2007 that no gas line is installed for food services in the Engineering Center. Silva said the center is still working on installing the line in order to provide students with more food options.

Surveys conducted by Silva reveal a student desire for Chinese food and more vegetables due to the diverse student body at the Engineering Center.

Miriman announced progress from the last town hall meeting held earlier this semester. The dean said the center was working on safety issues and beautification issues, which were both raised last semester.

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**Who’s next?**

- 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday

**Offices**

- Biscayne Bay Campus is located at 305-919-4722. Office hours are 2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is located at 305-919-4722. Office hours are 2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is located at 305-919-4722. Office hours are 2712.

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**Editorial Board**

- The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210, at the University Park campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-2709. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-548-2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is located at 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at: www.fiu.com

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Police Notes

- April 2: Police were called to Lakeview North in reference to a male and female shot with a BB Gun. He was struck in the face, on the right cheek. Upon arrival of the police, witnesses stated that the shot came from a second story window on the N.W. side of the dorm. Housing personnel stated that it appeared to be coming from dorm room 241. When the Officers arrived, the resident, Mr. Jeanniton Lewis, opened the door and gave officers permission to enter the room. Once inside, the suspects, Amah Kromah and Daimen Stanback were located. A subsequent investigation and search of the suspects revealed a CO-2 cylinder found in front of Stanback's shorts. The BB Gun was recovered on the floor next to Stanback on a pile of clothes. Stanback later spontaneously admitted to firing the gun at the male victims. Miami Dade Fire Rescue responded and treated the male victim and released him on the scene, advising him to seek medical attention for the injury. The female victim did not require any medical treatment.

- April 2: At around 7:15 p.m., an FIU student walked into the Baseball Stadium smoking a cigarette, a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. The student was requested several times to extinguish the cigarette by a Contemporary Service Company employee. The student refused, stating, “I do what I want to do,” and continued to smoke his cigarette. An officer was contacted, at which time the student extinguished the cigarette on the floor. The officer witnessed this however, escorting him out of the stadium.

- April 4: Police were dispatched to Lakeview South in reference to a burglary. The victim, a female FIU student and resident, stated that the previous night, she had left her dorm room to go out. Upon returning in the early morning hours of the next day, she found that the door to her room was opened. Inspecting the room, the victim found that unknown person(s) entered her room without her permission and took her laptop. The victim said that she could not remember if she locked the door to the room.

- April 6: Police were dispatched to University Park Towers 621A at around 2 a.m. in reference to the smell of marijuana coming from that location. Upon arrival, the two officers called were given consent to enter by the resident of the room. Another FIU student and a non-FIU student were also in the room at the time. When asked what the odor was, the resident stated that it was cigarettes. Inspecting the room, the students admitted that they were in fact smoking marijuana. Both students each had a clear plastic sandwich bag with marijuana located in their purse. The marijuana was confiscated and totaled 1.5 grams.

- Compiled by David Barrios

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Alvin Sherman Library
Located on the campus of Nova Southeastern University

College Student Bus Pass

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- Students must show current school identification card when purchasing the pass.
- Passes also sold at Broward County libraries and the Central Bus Terminal in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

For more information go to www.broward.org/bct, or call 954-357-8400; 954-357-8302 (hearing-speech impaired/TTY)

Broward County Transit
A service of the Broward County Commission.
Go Green Week has arrived
Event promotes eco-friendliness

SURACHA RODRIGUEZ
Asst. News Director

To close out a campus-wide initiative to be more environmentally friendly, Biscayne Bay Campus will hold Go Green Week from April 14-16.

“We’ve been doing all kinds of events and contests on going green,” said Zach Trautenberg, Go Green Week’s committee chair. “This is the closing of the Go Green theme and we want to get feedback from students.”

There are three environmentally themed events being hosted, beginning April 14 with Activities Day. Running from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., pizza will be served while students make bracelets and cell phone charms.

“We’re going to be using all organic beads for both men and women,” Trautenberg said. “They got all kinds of beads - from rhinestones to sports beads like basketballs and footballs.”

Surveys will be conducted to gauge the impact BBC’s Go Green theme has had on campus.

“We’re giving students surveys on what we’ve done, what could we do to make it better, what the University is doing to become more eco-friendly and what they themselves do to be eco-friendly,” Trautenberg said.

A nature walk will be hosted on April 15 in the Wolfe University Center loggia - the patio behind the gym and new cafeteria.

From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., music and food will be provided while students participate in games and the walk.

“There’s three purposes for this - to help the students know about natural resources we have on campus like the bay, second to show students how to have a more environmentally friendly picnic and then the last part is we’re going to be doing some green-friendly games to help students learn about the recycling process,” Trautenberg said.

Students will play a game where they will have to sort out recyclable items and place them in the correct bins as fast as they can.

“I’m going to try to get some clean garbage and mix in some cans, bottles, empty coffee cups, paper with and without staples,” Trautenberg said. “They get to see how to do it right and what happens if they do it wrong.”

Go Green Week’s close on April 16 will coincide with National Wildlife Federation’s Chill Out! A national broadcast showcasing universities’ efforts to stop global warming.

By stopping by WUC 155 at 7 p.m., students will be able to phone in during the program to ask questions about environmental issues.

For more information and to RSVP, visit www.wuc.fiu.edu and click on the Go Green Week banner.

“I see students getting more of a grasp of what it means to go green and help the environment,” Trautenberg said.

“You don’t have to become a tree hugger and live in the woods to be eco-friendly. You can just bring your lunch in a paper bag.”

Midnight munches reduce student stress

ANA PEREZ
BBC Life! Editor

It’s that time of year again where stress is in the air because the semester is coming to a close and finals are around.

However, Campus Life and Orientation, along with Campus Recreation and the Wolfe University Center, are coming to the rescue with a “Midnight Breakfast” from midnight munchies - a munchies give-away to help students relax.

11 p.m. to 1 a.m. When the clock strikes 12 on April 22 students will be able to gorge themselves with pancakes, waffles, eggs, bacon, muffins and bagels.

These are just a few of the foods to be served for BBC’s students, Joanne Oates, chair of the “Midnight Breakfast” committee, said it’s the perfect remedy for students in despair.

“We do this event so students can relax and re-energize for finals,” said Oates, a graduate assistant in Campus Life and Orientation. “Midnight Breakfast is the key to a stress-free week.”

Students will be able to engage in various stress relieving activities such as yoga, zumba and massages.

There will be giveaway baskets filled with goods, which will be given out on a first come, first serve basis. The assortment of breakfast foods will be catered by Aramark. The breakfast is only for students, and there is no cost to attend.

“Come in your pajamas, come from the library, come from out of the bushes; it doesn’t matter.”

Joanne Oates, Midnight Breakfast committee chair

Come in your pajamas, come from the library, come from out of the bushes; it doesn’t matter.

NEWS FLASH

Final kayaking trip of the semester

The Biscayne Bay Campus’ Recreation department’s Kayak Days on the Bay will hold their final kayaking trip of the semester on April 26 at 10 a.m.

Participants will meet at the Biscayne Bay boat ramp behind the Aquatic Center. No experience is necessary and equipment will be provided.

The event is free and open to everyone. For more information, call (305) 919-4695.

Writers on the Bay presents screenwriter

Writers on the Bay Reading Series will host a lecture by April Smith - and Emmy-nominated television writer, producer and novelist - on April 17 at 8 p.m. at WUC room 155. Smith’s screen work includes writing for television shows “Cagney and Lacey” and “Chicago Hope.”

Julia Horsl, the third novel in her mystery series featuring FBI Special Agent Ana-Grey, was published earlier this year. Attendance is free and open to the public. For more information, call (305) 919-5857.

Celebrating environmental art

Four stainless steel sculptures on loan from environmental artist Ross Power will be presented on April 14 at 5:30 p.m. at BBC.

The monuments that make up the Biscayne Bay sculpture garden are named Focus, Future, Wave, Reflective Man and No Turning Back. The artwork represents BBC’s commitment to the environment according to Vice Provost Damian Fernandez. For more information, go to www.rosspower.com or call (305) 919-5700.

– Compiled by Susana Rodriguez, Beacon staff

Contact Us
Edith Sweda
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AT THE BAY

Go Green Week has arrived
Event promotes eco-friendliness

Zach Trautenberg - Go Green Week committee chair

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– Compiled by Susana Rodriguez, Beacon staff
University violates Sunshine Law by denying reporters access to public meeting

A representative from the Student Press Law Center, based in Arlington, Va., also stated that the University was in active violation of the Sunshine Law. As the Florida Attorney General’s Office and the Student Press law center confirmed, the effort to suppress public access to critical hearings is an affront to the rights of every student and faculty member at the University.

In the landmark case Town of Palm Beach v. Grady (1974), the Florida Supreme Court ruled that all executive or committee meetings held by public institutions are to be open to the public if they have any bearing whatsoever in the decision making process. Another Florida Supreme Court decision, Silver Express Company v. Board of Trustees of Miami-Dade Community College, upheld and further defined such rights.

It stated that all “governmental advisory committees, which have offered up structured recommended – at least those recommendations which eliminate opportunities for alternative choices by the final authority, or which rank applications for the final authority – have been determined to be agencies governed by the Sunshine Law,” according to Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum’s Web site. While The Beacon ultimately sat through the meeting’s final 15 minutes, the troubling nature of the events surrounding our attendance speak to a larger issue.

Florida International University is a publically funded institution and belongs not to some group of University officials but to every student, faculty member and taxpayer in the state of Florida. Meetings that are critical to the future of this institution, even if the meeting is simply to discuss or eliminate options, should be fully accessible to the public – not only as a matter of legality but as a matter of principle.

Call your self a Berkeleyan aside, the ban is unparalleled and the power this tiny local government seems to hold is scary. The ban, as it pertains to the outdoors, seems to be more a vehicle through which the City Council is imposing their sensibilities on another, also known as tyranny, and aims at stopping smokers from smoking entirely.

This slippery slope is dangerous to go down because while you may not smoke, you may do something else the City Council will not approve of...

Robert Frost said “Happiness makes up in height what it lacks in length.” Sure smoking may also cost you your life, but living, from one end to the other, is a suicidal enterprise by itself.

Getting out of bed is a risk, stepping out of your front door is a risk, and it seems to me the object is not to prolong life indefinitely, but delight in it definitively. I think those, like the City Council, whom would take away its citizen’s right to choose whether to take a bite from the sexy, chocolate-filled fish of life commit a crime, not a service.

So Berkeley’s actions, to me, are not some righteous crusade waged in the interest of the perpetrators, but a local government cherry-picking a minority pleasure they don’t understand and harassing those that do.

With what end result? Yes, a smoke-free environment, but also slavery. Because what is slavery, a person telling another person what he can do, which begins with telling a person he can’t do one thing, then two things, then everything until the only thing he can do is what the other tells him.

This is the slow regression of democracy to a carcinogen-free despotism. So my message to Berkeley, and to those that would substitute a smoker’s pursuit of happiness with their own, would be to read the Statue of Liberty’s inscription, which proclaims, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,” and look past the literal meaning of the words to the broader and more satisfying message that your life is yours.
Rascal reinvents Grime game

CHRISS MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

Dizzee Rascal has been both at the forefront and on the sidelines of the U.K. underground phenomenon known as “Grime” since its genesis in the streets of East London in the early years of this decade. Two award winning albums, 2003’s Boy In Da Corner and 2004’s Showtime, have earned Rascal, nicknamed “Da Raskit,” a place in the pantheon of top Grime MCs, while his eclectic production skills and flow have garnered fans beyond the base of British Garage and Grime fans.

His ability to go beyond the established norms of urban British music and reach out to unconventional audiences has also hurt Dizzee’s position in the Grime community.

Unfortunately, Dizzee’s latest record was not to be released in the U.S. (presumably due to the sales of the previous two albums, which made headlines in the underground and indie press but failed to break into the mainstream conscious).

This was regrettable, as the album’s reception was strongly positive, with the Sunday Telegraph (U.K.) proclaiming “Maths” to be “the most important album to emerge from the black British underground,” while Pitchfork Media claimed that it could have been the most accessible album to American listeners. Fortunately, upstart underground hip-hop label Definitive Jux has released the album in CD and vinyl format stateside, giving the American audience a copy of the groundbreaking album April 29.

Unlike Dizzee’s previous albums, which were characterized by dirty Grime riddims and a nearly nonsensical lyrical content, “Maths” presents a very different Dizzee where he seems liberated from the label of Grime. In fact, very little of his latest oeuvre could be described as “Grime,” as he branches out his MC skills to rhyme over Drum-n-Bass, Garage and other genre-mashing tracks.

The result is an album very different from its precedents. It’s almost as if he is purposely distancing himself from the very scene that he sprung out of. The opening track, “World Outside,” explains, presumably to his mates back in the L.D.N. (London to outsiders), why he hasn’t been seen in the streets of East London lately, but it also serves as a mea culpa of why he is branching outside of the constraints of grime.

From there, the album goes on a roller coaster ride of emotions which see a young black Londoner experiencing the highs of commercial success (“Bubbles”), all the while questioning the trappings that come with it (“Hardback (Industry)”) and the ever present problems of the world outside (“Excuse Me Please”).

Although Maths + English is a highly enjoyable album with copious amounts of club bangers and solid singles (“P*ssyole (Old Skool),” the excellent “Sirens,” a British reply to Jay-Z’s “99 Problems,” complete with rolling guitar samples), there is still the problem of Dizzee’s underground status here in the U.S. Additionally, Dizzee’s rhymes are full of British slang and words that might also serve as an impediment to expanding his American fan base.

But “Yanks” adventurous enough will be rewarded with a wholly enjoyable experience.

Week’s news includes ghost hunt, freak shooting

MEXICAN WRESTLER PUCKERS UP TO FIGHT

MEXICO CITY (AP) – In a hot-pink Mohawk haircut and leopard to match, the piroquettes before taking down his muscle-bound enemies with a swift kick to the groin.

MAXIMO

Maximo, Mexican professional wrestling’s latest sensation, then delivers a crowning blow – a kiss on the lips of his macho opponent to the delight of a packed crowd.

WOMAN FOUND LIVING WITH RATS AND SNAKES

ROCHESTER, Wash. (AP) – Authorities say a woman has been found living with hundreds of rats and four malnourished snakes in a home outside Rochester.

Thurston County Animal Services Director Susanne Beauregard says an official from the Area Agency on Aging Director Susanne Beauregard says an official from the Area Agency on Aging.

DOROTHY BROCKMAN

Dorothy Brockman was last seen in the area around 8 p.m. Tuesday.

WOMAN DISRUPTS BINGO AT MCDONALD’S

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) – A 90-year-old woman accidentally backed into a McDonald’s restaurant, disrupting a bingo game and sending a couple to the hospital with minor injuries. Lois Weber told police one of her tennis shoes became stuck under the gas pedal on her 2004 Cadillac, causing her to lose control and back into the restaurant Wednesday.

She said she recently changed shoe brands and was not used to the wider fit.

BULLET GOES THROUGH MAN’S HEADBOARD

CEDAR CITY, Utah (AP) – Dan Kidder doesn’t go to bed early. Maybe that’s why he’s still alive. A .38-caliber bullet went through a wall of his Cedar City house and through the headboard on his bed at about 8 p.m. Tuesday. Kidder, a firearms instructor, says the “what-ifs are staggering.”

INDONESIAN MASSEUSES LOCK THEIR PANTS

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) – Massage parlors in an Indonesian town are asking their female masseuses to padlock their skirts and pants to make it clear that sex is not on offer.

But the move has been protested by the women’s affairs minister of Indonesia, where massage parlors are often a front for prostitution.

“It is not the right way to prevent promiscuity,” Meutia Swasono was quoted as saying in Thursday’s Jakarta Post. “It insults women... as if they are the ones in the wrong.”

Outstanding Student Life Awards

Diversity
Kerast Toussaint

Outstanding Service- Individual
David Foinseca

Outstanding Service- Organization
Dance Marathon

Modesto A. Maidique Visionary Award
Jean Roseme

Leadership- Freshman
Ana Maria and Laura Torres

Leadership- Sophomore
Dori-Ann Fernandes and Sheska Ocasio

Leadership- Senior
Cassandra Andrade, Leah Dunleavy, Brad Low, Katianna Sainstable

Leadership- Graduate
Jason Ingrao
Wide array of stars rock the Croc’s Next Step Tour

Photos by: Fernando Garcia

Brent Kutzle of One Republic

Zach Filkins of One Republic

Rapper Fabolous from Brooklyn

Felipe Biatti of Biatti

Pop/Rock group Biatti opened for One Republic

Drew Brown of OneRepublic

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ECO 3203
ACG 3301
BSC 1011
Solo attempt sees Meloy performing his best, worst

CHRIS TOWERS  Asst. News Director

About 20 minutes into his first full-length solo release, “Colin Meloy Sings Live!”, Meloy, the lead singer of the Decemberists, launched into an unreleased song called “Dracula’s Daughter,” which he considers the worst song he’s ever written.

“I’d rather have people remember the melodic portion of things that I’ve done,” said Meloy. “I’d rather have people know that I’m a songwriter who has a tendency to hide behind surprising when Meloy segues into the 1977 song in the song, which makes it all the more understandable.

Words that you might need a dictionary to base your passage off of, and the crowd is for the most part silent, and the mood for a raspberry compulse – small blocks bursting with kinetic energy that send your ball to a goal using as few of the compulse tiles as possible.

In one of four directions.

“Compulse,” like many non-words, is not for everyone.

It may seem a bit boring to gamers looking for something a bit faster and slightly more energetic, but if you enjoy a slow, methodical and surprisingly rewarding game of strategy and, more often than not, trial and error this may just be the game for you.

The object of the game is to direct a very stubborn little ball to a goal using compulse tiles – small blocks bursting with kinetic energy that send your ball in one of four directions.

Get to the goal using as few of the tiles as possible.

GAME

Game of patience appeals to those fond of tile work

With so many words in the English language, it’s easy to mistake a non-word for an actual word.

Many of these non-words, like funnies and awesome, really seem to make sense sometimes.

Even though they’re not real words, you definitely know what they mean.

“Compulse” is one of these deceptive little non-words that may take you by surprise.

Though it may not be a real word, it is the real title of a really fun game from developer Armorgames Games.

“Compulse,” like many non-words, is not for everyone.

Regardless, it is also precisely these qualities that make the songs so unique and refreshing.

Meloy seems to be, first and foremost, a story teller with his music, and the stories range from a Romeo & Juliet-esque romance – complete with a suicide pact at the end – to a tale of a mother who acts as a prostitute in order to provide for her family.

This last song, “A Cautionary Tale,” is an encapsulation of everything else in the show, showcasing his voice, storytelling, way with words, as well as his humor, albeit some of the darkest I’ve heard in a long time.

The Bar, a non-descript watering hole just north of Miracle Mile in the heart of Coral Gables. Located on Giralda Ave., The Bar sports a full bar in the center flanked by a number of bar stools that are usually packed with customers during the place’s nightly specials.

Nestled in one corner is a digital jukebox where $1 gets you two tunes from a selection featuring hits from Sublime and The White Stripes; a variety of beer games are also available for patrons to satisfy their Battleship and chess hunger pangs.

The Bar’s claim to fame, however, is its assortment of beers, which range in price from $3.75 to $12. In the mood for a raspberry compulse beer? Well, you can find it here, but it isn’t cheap. For those a little less adventurous, Bud Light and Heineken have a place on the varied bar guide, which features more than 20 bottled and draft beers from as far as Germany and Holland.

Although the beer selection is diverse, the bar menu is serviceable. Wings, wedge fries and loaded nachos are standard fare on this typical menu – you can find the same items at any other bar in the city. Still, the fries do stand out for three reasons: they’re cheap (under $4), good and big enough to share with a large group.

One menu item that didn’t stand out was the chicken wings, which were much too flavorless to be enjoyed. If you happen to find yourself at the Bar any night of the week, you’ll find all sorts of alcohol specials. Tuesday and Thursday nights are ladies night, where females drink free and, on Wednesday night, one can expect $2 shots of Cuervo, Jagermeister and kamikazes until close at 2 a.m.

Overall, The Bar is a place for drinking, not for eating. Although the food and drinks seem pricey, a slightly visit won’t put a hole in your wallet and you’ll experience some tasty brewskis. Just make sure you bring money for parking – there’s no free lots nearby.

HELPING HANDS

WELL POLISHED: Kathy Saint-Louis, an occupational therapy graduate student, is one of the many FIU students who take advantage of Santi’s Hair Salon in Graham Center.

RESTAURANT

Gables bar features large beer selection, cheap fries

GEORGE ANDERSON JR.  Life! Editor

“Dark” is a word that appropriately describes The Bar, a non-descript watering hole just north of Miracle Mile in the heart of Coral Gables.

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Each year, cigarettes kill over 26 times more Americans than murder.

Door locks won’t work. Mace won’t help. So, how do you fend off the nation’s deadliest killer?

Simple, don’t smoke. By leading to lung cancer, heart disease and countless other ailments, smoking kills 438,000 smokers each year.

If you never light up, you’ll never be one of them. And if you’d like to save someone else, tell them to visit tobaccofreeflorida.com

or call the Quitline at 1-877-U-CAN-NOW for free cessation aids like patches, gum and lozenges while supplies last.

© Florida Department of Health
Seventh inning double play kills Golden Panther rally

In a game that ended a five-game losing streak, FAU outscored FIU 7-4 with a bases-clearing double by Christine Houghtaling.

BASEBALL
FIU (12-23) defeated FGCU 4-3 at Swanson Stadium on April 9 thanks to a quality start by Jorge Ramos and another great game by infielder Jorge Castillo.

The Golden Panthers proved against FAU that they can produce outs and hold the left field line, bringing in two more runs and extending the FAU lead to 7-4. Unfortunately, for the Golden Panthers, this ended Barrett’s night. Reliever Holly Satterfield was able to stop the bleeding and give the top of the order the chance to make things right.

The Golden Panthers came after getting thumped four out of seven innings, but FIU was not a team at bay. The Owls were scoreless in the left field line, bringing in two more runs and extending the FAU lead to 7-4. Unfortunately, for the Golden Panthers, this ended Barrett’s night. Reliever Holly Satterfield was able to stop the bleeding and give the top of the order the chance to make things right.

Fink singled to lead off but was picked off as Bell’s offering was caught. The Golden Panthers proved against FAU that they can produce outs and hold the left field line, bringing in two more runs and extending the FAU lead to 7-4. Unfortunately, for the Golden Panthers, this ended Barrett’s night. Reliever Holly Satterfield was able to stop the bleeding and give the top of the order the chance to make things right.

The Golden Panthers (10-8) are now ranked No. 55 in the nation. The Golden Panthers completed their seventh victory in as many home games. Despite a late rally by the Owls, FIU was able to hold them off thanks to a strong start. While head coach Karen Stein has arguably his 3-for-4 day at the plate.

The FIU women’s softball team used a 6-1 victory over FAU at University Park on Friday, April 11 to keep its home record perfect on the season.

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Star athlete on the verge of qualifying for Olympics

FORBES, page 12

second among student-athletes in the 110-meter hurdles at the Pepsi Florida Relays in Gainesville.

His second place finish in the 110-meter hurdles broke the school record in the event with a time of 13.67, just five-hundredths behind top finisher, John Tankersley of Ole Miss.

Forbes’ time qualified him for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing; however, legitimacy of the time arose because the wind gauges before and after registered wind speed over the legal limit of Olympic stipulations.

“When you are running outdoors, you have to account for the favorable and unfavorable conditions, but I have no doubt in my mind that Ronald will run the qualifying time and travel to the Olympics,” Campbell said.

Forbes will have another opportunity to clinch his spot in Beijing on April 12 at the Miami Elite Invitational at the University of Miami.

“The success that Ronald is having this year is unbelievable, because Ronald came to FIU running the 400 hurdles with no true experience running the sprint hurdles, and now he is ranked in the world,” Campbell said. As for the remainder of the 2008 season, both Campbell and Forbes have set a goal for him to win the NCAA Outdoor National Championships on June 11.

“Everything that Forbes does is done with a purpose, and he is one of the most hardworking athletes I have ever had the pleasure of coaching,” Campbell said.

As a child, Forbes can remember lining up and racing his classmates during recess or clinch a national championship, Forbes will be graduating this Spring.

Injuries and his family’s circumstances presented Forbes with obstacles he had to overcome if he wanted an opportunity to compete alongside the world’s best athletes.

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OLYMPIC HOPES

All-American track star shines at FIU after coming from Division II school

AUDRINA BIGOS
Contributing Writer

Former FIU track coach Steve Rubin scouted a highly touted recruit from the Cayman Islands in 2004.

Four years later, senior Ronald Forbes is on the verge of heading to the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

"My greatest joy is going to be seeing him participate in the opening ceremonies at the Olympics, because if anyone should have the opportunity to know what it feels like to become an elite athlete, it is Ronald," said current track and field coach Eric Campbell.

Before his tenure as a Golden Panther, the 2008 Olympic games were an afterthought for Forbes as he was running track for Division II Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla.

"There was really no coach and no team at the college," Forbes said.

"Running track there was a way to get my foot in the door, but I knew I had to get out of there."

After one semester, Forbes met Rubin in Mexico while participating in the CAC Junior Championships in June of 2004.

Forbes was offered a full athletic scholarship and began attending FIU just one semester later.

"I am the only person in my family to go to college and, unfortunately, no one had the ability to help me financially so I didn’t even hesitate signing on to FIU with a full-ride," Forbes said.

Forbes’ first years at FIU were plagued by injuries, and he only ran in two races during the 2007 season.

"I battled a lot of injuries in 2006 and 2007 with my hamstring and groin," he said. "It hurt mentally to know that I had the potential to run good times, but my body just wouldn’t let me."

He fought through injuries with the constant reminder he was not competing at the collegiate level just for a scholarship but for his native country as well.

Forbes is the only athlete from the Cayman Islands to ever receive NCAA honors.

"A lot of people in my country look up to me, and sometimes I realize that I have to succeed not only for myself but for the people in my country that look to me as inspiration in their lives," he said.

During the 2008 season, the Cayman Islands native has devoted his senior year to setting precedents for future FIU athletes.

Forbes was honored as FIU’s only NCAA All-American by running the 60-meter hurdles in 7.74 seconds on March 14 in Fayetteville, Ark.

Then on April 4, Forbes placed third in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.21.

"I am the only person in the country look up to me, and sometimes I realize that I have to succeed not only for myself but for the people in my country that look to me as inspiration in their lives," he said.

"I never thought I could do that in singles," Patrauskaite said. "I thought I could in doubles, but I think I can do it. I need five matches, and we have four more plus [the Sun Belt Tournament]."

This season started with a 6-1 loss versus No. 10 Miami; however, FIU’s lone win came when freshman Lisa Brito defeated UM’s Laura Vallverdu who was ranked No. 29 in the nation at the time of the match.

"I knew her from before when we played junior tournaments together," Brito said. "I thought it was going to be a tough match, and beating her would be hard, but it went well."

Brito is a formidable player and the brightest of the many young stars on FIU’s roster.

The Golden Panthers’ only other freshman is Maria Spenceley, and the team also has three sophomores: Priscilla Castillo, Maria Dolores Pazo and Maria Jose Vallasciani.

"If you are an athlete, you want to be able to make the team and compete in the conference tournament," said coach Carlos Casely.

"They are a good combination."

Combining a right-hander and a left-hander gives the duo an advantage over other doubles teams.

"We complement each other in the games," Patrauskaite said. "She is good in the back and she sets me up."

With title hopes looming, FIU is ranked No. 53 the country and has lost two straight matches.

Nationally ranked players include Brito, who is ranked No. 91, and No. 112 Patrauskaite.

The team’s 3-0 record versus Sun Belt Conference teams holds well for the Golden Panthers as they head into the conference tournament April 18.

The team will likely need to get past No. 26 ranked Denver to cap off another successful year and continue to build a legacy at FIU.

SPRING FOOTBALL

Defense showcased to coaches

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

The football team’s spring practice resumed April 10 at the University Park recreation field with about 30 high school coaches from South Florida partaking in the Golden Panthers’ second-annual Coaches Clinic.

Coach Mario Cristobal said the coaches were invited to watch the two-and-a-half hour practice in order to showcase the intricacies of the team’s practices.

The purpose of the clinic was also to show the high school coaches that the FIU program is a program their players should attend the future.

“We are opening our doors to these coaches and want to show them what we do, how we do it and why,” Cristobal said.

The practice ended with a two-minute drill, which the defense dominated from the opening series.

The first team offense connected on a long pass to wide receiver Jeremy Dickies. After that long pass, the defense shut down the offense and did not allow a score.

The second-team offense as much as the first team, if not more, as the second-team defense applied constant pressure and recorded several sacks on the quarterbacks.

"The defense has a better understanding of the scheme," Cristobal said. "And they are playing more physical. They initiated collisions today and were hitting people real hard.

Young players head into tournament