**Golden Panther Band at risk after six years of service**

**JORGÉ VALENS**
Asst. News Director

After six years of existence, FIU’s Golden Panther Marching Band faces elimination in the shadow of massive budget cuts.

On March 24, a public forum was held in an empty sound hall at the School of Music in order for students and band members to emphasize the importance of the band and to voice their opinions on how the band can be spared.

According to Carla Geiger, FIU Athletic Bands’ director, the College of Architecture and The Arts, also known as CARTA, currently funds 65 percent of the band; the remainder is split between Student Government Association and the Athletics Department, each funding 21 percent and 14 percent respectively.

With budget cuts on the way for the next fiscal year, CARTA may not be able to fund the band any longer and SGA has been talking about cutting funding to the band altogether.

“We do not have the $237,000 that was our share of the cost of the band,” said former CARTA dean, Juan Bueno. “We don’t have that in the budget and we are about to lose another $800,000 now.”

He said that these cuts are not only unavoidable, but are also complimentary to the budget cuts the BAND, page 2

**Lawmakers outline budget cuts**

**BILL KACZOR**
AP Writer

Proposed budgets released by both Florida legislative chambers for the next fiscal year are $600 million apart, with the Senate’s on the high side partly because it includes Seminole Indian gaming money not in the House plan.

Gov. Charlie Crist, meanwhile, on Friday stepped up efforts to persuade both Republican-controlled chambers to approve a compact he originally made with the tribe to expand gambling at its seven Florida casinos before the state Supreme Court ruled it needs legislative approval. Both chambers have since drafted separate plans, with Crist’s version somewhere in the middle.

The Senate’s proposed $65.6 billion spending plan for the budget year beginning July 1 is about $100 million more than the state’s current budget. The House plan weighs in at $65 billion, or half a billion less than what is now being spent. Both proposals were distributed to lawmakers late Thursday. Appropriations committees will consider them next week. Floor votes are expected the following week.

The Senate’s budget bill includes $538 million from the Seminole compact. That includes $288 million carried over from the current budget year. The tribe has put that much aside awaiting the Legislature’s approval of Crist’s compact. The Senate is going to try set and beakers at GC 1223.

**PROTEST:** Members of the FIU Marching Band demonstrate by the fountain in front of Primera Casa. They are trying to save the band by urging students to sign a petition. The College of Architecture and The Arts, who mainly funds the band, will not fund it next year.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**
FIU Chemistry Club – Interviews, April 8, 1 p.m. Come with your chemistry and help our students.

Los Fulminantes Cadillacs, April 9, 9, 4:30 p.m. Enjoy some middle-aged “punk” rockers at the American Airlines Arena.

Marc Anthony, April 9, 8 p.m. Enjoy some middle-aged “skeletor” at Hard Rock Cafe.

Service for Peace – Meeting, April 9, 3:30 p.m. Learn how to have really bad handwriting.

America – Meeting, April 9, 6:30 p.m. Enjoy some middle-aged “punk” rockers at Hard Rock Cafe.

**SPOTLIGHT**
**AT THE BAY**
SQC ARC has a new executive board for the upcoming school year.

**OPINION**
Graduating in three years grants plenty of opportunities.

**AT THE BAY**
Put down the lemonade and cool off over the summer with affordable wines.

**SPORTS**
Big advantages and points at stake if FIU takes two of three from WKU.

**LIFE**
April 9, 4:30 p.m. Enjoy some middle-aged “punk” rockers at Hard Rock Cafe.

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**WEATHER**
**MONDAY**
Partly cloudy LOW 78 HIGH 81
**TUESDAY**
Partly cloudy LOW 77 HIGH 81
**WEDNESDAY**
Partly cloudy LOW 78 HIGH 81
**THURSDAY**
Partly cloudy LOW 79 HIGH 83
**FRIDAY**
Isolated t-storms LOW 77 HIGH 81

**LEGISLATURE, page 2**

**ELECTION CODE revision, new Finance Code to be presented**

**DAVID BARRIOS**
Senior Staff Writer

During their penultimate meeting of the 2008-2009 school year, the senate of the Student Government Council at University Park passed a resolution to aid the Marching Band and a dilemma over the new College of Arts and Sciences senate seat was brought to the attention of the senators.

SGC-UP Chief Justice Leonard Goenaga said that the fifth College of Arts and Sciences seat was improperly filled.

The College of Social Work, Criminal Justice and Public Affairs is now part of the College of Arts and Sciences; therefore, calling for an additional seat in the college.

The new seat was created under the new Student Government Association constitution, which was up for vote by students, and passed on during the April 1-2 elections. The seat was filled by Pablo Martinez.

“Proper protocol was not followed in the filling of this new position,” Goenaga said. “This position can only be filled by special elections or filled during next year’s elections.”

A clear action has yet to be made as to how the senate will deal with this issue.

The senate also discussed the SFIU Marching Band, which is currently seeking funding after losing most of its funding from the College of Architecture and The Arts.

Senate Speaker Juan Rosene and Senator Chris Cabral presented resolutions to the body, asking for SGA to aid the marching band in seeking funding.

“The Student Government at Florida International University is willing to work with the other financial supporters of the FIU Marching Band to put forward a plan to save the band in these tough economic times, and for the future,” read the original draft of the resolution.

“We cannot take the burden on this,” said SGC-UP president-elect, Anthony Rionda, while speaking to the body.

After deliberations, it was determined that SGC-UP would not seek to mediate finding a way to fund the band. The senate did, however, pass a resolution stating that they fully support the efforts of the band.

Senator Moses Alcuzio introduced a bill to strike Section II, Clause B of the Elections Code and replace the requirements for appointing elections commissioner and board members.

The new bill, approved by the senate, calls for elections commissioners and elections board members to be appointed by the SGC-UP president after submission of an application. The candidates would then be approved by a simple majority of the senate during any meeting where there is quorum.

Comptroller Robert Chung during his presentation to the body also said that a new Finance Code would be introduced into the senate during the April 13 meeting.
Italian earthquake death toll rising

The earthquake that struck Monday morning has so far left 100,000 homeless and more than 1,500 injured. Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has declared a state of emergency.

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As these last few weeks of the semester wind down, I am certainly groaning from my course load. My days are now devoted to term papers and final projects. So much, that I come home just to pre-nap before my bedtime. As soon as April is over, I don’t want to see my friend PowerPoint for a while.

What I want is a nice glass of wine.

But what pairs well with summer time and our pockets? Even though our image of summer time is painted with rolling beaches and road trips to Orlando for a Disney escape, in reality the south campus, making FIU one school with summer time and our pockets? What pairs well with summer time and our pockets?

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How to cope with chaos

The world is pretty insane. We know that CEOs are going to be making millions even as their companies are going under. People that in any given place there is going to be genocide, poverty, corruption and war crimes. Does the multinational conglomerate charities that have been in operation for decades like to prevent world peace, prevent cancer, hunger and the like, no one expects these tragedies to be a thing of the past anytime soon.

The United Nations is powerless to stop excess in the hands of corporations and has been contributing to the problem recently. The methods for dealing with such a crazy world are many, and as you read this I hope to explore some of the more common ways of coping with madness, as well as provide my own suggestions on how to make it from cradle to grave without going completely batty.

Some people cling to their guns and religion, as President Obama has said. As he found out soon after, though, people do not like being told they are complete batty.

The truth of the matter is that these are two methods that many do use to cope with the world at large.

According to a 2007 survey by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, 78.4 percent of all American adults identify themselves as Christian. In addition to the percent that identify as other religions, this doesn’t mean that America does cling to its religion.

The reason that people have always been religious even before this recession is that the world has always been coping with chaos. Religion was created as a way to deal with the crazy notion of a bunch of cognitively disengaged apes on a speck of rock in the middle of the universe with no idea how they got there or what they are supposed to be doing, and with an inclination to destroy each other.

Despite the recent tightening of wallets, gun sales have spiked both locally and nationally. This creates an even more convincing picture of one way that Americans cope with the fear of uncertain times. Even in my own household it has been suggested that we go out and buy guns to protect ourselves because things will go away any minute now as the economy continues to suffer.

Becoming fearful and reclusive is not the best way to deal with the more common ways of coping with madness, as well as provide my own suggestions on how to make it from cradle to grave without going completely batty.

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Mottola’s latest brings back the sweet from Superbad

ANA MARIA AROCHA  
Contributing Writer

Writer-Director Greg Mottola has a knack for capturing adolescent embarrassment, angst and pain. In Adventureland, he depicts all the self-loathing and confusion many recent college graduates face when thrust into the real world in a quirky, nostalgic way.

The time we heard from him was with 2007’s Superbad, when he introduced viewers to misfit teenagers that are willing to do anything to make their last high school party memorable and move on to college a bit more experienced.

What could easily have become a cliché and fallen into the black hole of forgotten teen comedies turned out to be a conscience-driven and rather insightful. Overeducated and inexperienced, James soon discovers that his expectations were dead wrong when he meets his coworkers, a motley crew of fellows — misfit, just looking for a good time. There is the intellectual pipe-smoker Joel (Martin Starr), the mysterious and obviously damaged Eim (Kristen Stewart), amusement park superstar/maintenance man Mike (Ryan Reynolds), and the quirky managers Bobby (Bill Hader) and Paulette (Kristen Wiig), among others.

Mottola has a talent for choosing actors that can take stereotypical characters and make them seem unique and oddly familiar. His leading man, Jesse Eisenberg, is enough of a reason to watch the film. Eisenberg’s perfectly awkward performance is disarming in its sincerity. Watching him explain why James is still a virgin at 22 is uncomfortable yet heartbreaking; you feel embarrassed for him but proud at the same time.

Surprisingly, Kristen Stewart did not disappoint. Based on her performance in the vampire romance Twilight, expectations were not very high for Stewart. But here she manages to portray Eim’s mysteriousness, pain and confusion with a self-aware quality that makes her real and relatable. When she cries you want to cry too, not because the moment is particularly heavy, but because you have gained some insight into this character that could not have otherwise been attained without Stewart.

Perhaps the most memorable character was Joel. This lovable Russian literature buff revels in how far from cool he is while yearning to be accepted by the most attractive girl in the park. Stunt’s comedic timing is impeccable and he steals every scene he is in, regardless of whether he has any lines.

The strangest casting choice was Ryan Reynolds. His credits include funny but not necessarily smart movies where acting ability is a minimum. Once again, Mottola’s casting was on point. Reynolds succeeded in making an otherwise detestable character reliable. He plays both friend and rival to James and achieves the same relationship with the audience. Reynolds portrays his character, Mike, as good-natured, confused and lacking proper direction. He is not aware he has any lines.

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Charged with a collection of recognizable 80’s indie rock, Adventureland is an honest and perceptive exploration of young adult relationships when youth ends and the real world sets in.

With this sweet, quirky, romantic alternative to Superbad, Mottola has found himself yet another winner.

You’ve probably checked out the nutrition facts label here and there at the grocery store. Perhaps you’ve turned to the label to read how much sugar is in one serving of your favorite cereal or how many calories are in that pack of chocolate chip cookies.

But the truth of the matter is that the more you know about the things you are consuming, the more likely you will be to avoid unnecessary calories.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Web site has a detailed description on how to read your foods’ nutrition facts.

But if you’re like me, I prefer a quick rundown. Here’s the load:

A nutrition facts label starts off with “serving size,” and that means one serving. Therefore, all the information that follows is for one serving only.

“If you double the servings you eat, you double the calories and nutrients, including the percent daily value,” according to the FDA.

If you want to compare nutritional information between brands or products such as almonds or milk, you may want to keep an eye out for serving size on each brand, suggests the site.

Next up, calories. Last Saturday I had a terrible craving for pizza, so while I was at the grocery store I stopped by the frozen food section to grab a small one.

I found DiGiorno’s “Thin Crust Pepperoni” pizza for one. I figured this crust equals less calories and less fat. But boy, was I wrong.

This deliciousness totaled a whopping 590 calories, and that’s only for one serving!

“Calories provide a measure of how much energy you get from a serving of this food,” according to the FDA. “Many Americans consume more calories than they need without meeting recommended intakes for a number of nutrients.”

Some nutrients should be consumed with limits: fats, carbohydrates and sodium and are identified in yellow.

“Eating too much fat, saturated fat, trans fat, cholesterol or sodium may increase your risk of certain chronic diseases, like heart disease, some cancers, or high blood pressure,” according to the administration.

The FDA recommends that for protein you choose foods that are lean, low in fat or fat free.

One of the major things on the nutrition facts label is the percent daily value (DV) because it helps you connect nutrients in a serving to their contribution to your total daily diet, according to the FDA.

There is always a reminder that the percent DV is based on a 2,000-calorie diet.

But with that said, next time you look at your groceries, make sure you check your nutrition facts to make sure you’re not consuming more than you should!

Check your Pulse every Wednesday for the latest in health and wellness.
Matisyahu discusses religious background, new album

NATALIE LEVY
Staff Writer

On March 26, the eve of the Miami Winter Music Conference, Brooklynite Matisyahu sat down with The Beacon before a concert to discuss his latest album and future tour plans.

The Beacon: I understand you have a show tonight; you’re cutting it kind of close.
Matisyahu: Oh, no. We probably won’t go on until a little bit later.

B: Alright, no problem then! So, you’re down here for the Winter Music Conference?
M: Yeah, that’s right.

B: When does Light drop?
M: It should be out like May/June. I think probably early June.

B: How did you get started? Did you always know that you wanted to be a musician?
M: Well, I always loved music, since I was a little kid, and I always wanted to be involved in music. It took me a little while to figure out what it was that I wanted to do and I always sang, but I started listening to a lot of reggae music initially and that kind of pushed me to want to be a rapper and a singer.

B: Coming out of Brooklyn, and especially in the Jewish community, coming out and doing reggae, how was that perceived?
M: Well, I was raised in White Plains, New York; it was a pretty typical suburban upbringing. I didn’t become religious and move to Brooklyn until I was already in my early 20s.

So, it was kind of like any kid sitting there and listening to reggae music so, I guess, for me it just really hit home and I took on the whole thing.
I just listened to it all the time. I think the main thing is being able to listen; if you’re a lover of music and it penetrates into your soul and you’re creative then you’ll find a way to make it yours and, kind of, express yourself in that form.

B: So when you first started, you were this Yeshiva kid, going to school and then sitting on your couch and beat-boxing?
M: No, I didn’t go to Yeshiva until I was like 22, 23. I was raised with not much of a Jewish background, I had some Jewish background but I went to public school.

Most of my friends were into rap music but I was kind of like the hippie kid, because I was into Phish and some of The Grateful Dead and that stuff and then sooner or later someone played me a Nas album, It was written, and I just fell in love with that record.

From then on, I just started writing rhymes and my friends would all rap and free-style and I started beat-boxing and that’s just kind of how I got started.

B: If I can ask you a more personal question, in 2007 you did a New Times interview where you said that you no longer necessarily identify yourself with the Lubavich movement, what influenced you to go in a different direction?
M: Well, because I live in Crown Heights and I went to Lubavich Yeshiva most of the Jewish world were with the Lubavich community. People really started to ask me about the movement but I felt that I really wasn’t the right spokes-person for it being that I wasn’t raised in that community. I was fresh and new to the community, three, four, five years being religious and hanging out in Crown Heights. I just wanted people to like me for me and not really associate me with any one group.

Maybe that didn’t come across in a way that everyone was able to hear and completely understand what I meant but that’s just what happened.

B: How has Miami been treating you?
M: It’s always great whenever we come here. I think we’re actually going to start our tour here May 30, either in Miami or Fort Lauderdale.

M: Well, it definitely incorporates lots of elements from electronic music. My sense or my belief in music is that it has the ability to transport and, sort of, open consciousness. It seems to me that electronic music has that ability, it provides that element.

Lubavich most of my ties, I was Lubavitch most of my ties growing up in Crown Heights and I went to the Lubavich movement but I felt that I didn’t have a way to go in a different direction. I said you did a personal question, in 2007 you did a New Times interview where you said that you no longer necessarily identify yourself with the Lubavich movement, what influenced you to go in a different direction?
M: Well, because I live in Crown Heights and I went to Lubavich Yeshiva most of the Jewish world were with the Lubavich community. People really started to ask me about the movement but I felt that I really wasn’t the right spokes-person for it being that I wasn’t raised in that community. I was fresh and new to the community, three, four, five years being religious and hanging out in Crown Heights. I just wanted people to like me for me and not really associate me with any one group. And
Offense overmatches Western Kentucky pitching

**BASEBALL, page 8**

Polizzano worked with his first advantage of the game and after a shaky beginning, regained his form to shut down the Hilltoppers’ offense for five consecutive innings.

He gave the offense a chance to keep on building a larger lead. "My fastball was really good today," Polizzano said. "I really didn’t have it my last couple starts, but then I found it.”

The lead got up to five runs, but head coach Turtle Thomas was not going to let his hitters become complacent against an offensive roster leading the Sun Belt Conference in team average (.343) and slugging percentage (.568).

"When we had eight, I went up to every hitter, and said, ‘You think eight [runs] is enough?’ They said, ‘No.’ Then when we had 10 [runs], I said, ‘You think 10 is enough?’ They all said ‘no’ again.”

And coach Thomas was right as the Hilltoppers were not going to go away quietly. Polizzano pitched seven innings and gave up five runs, all in the second inning.

He did not come out for the start of the eighth inning.

Eric Berkowitz faced Wade Gaynor, who drilled a two-run home run. Jorge Marban entered the game and finally got the first out of the inning.

But Marban would not go unscathed as Matt Hightower followed Gaynor’s lead and hit a two-run home run as well to cut the lead to 10-9.

Marban closed out the inning, and the Golden Panthers’ offense got two more runs in the bottom of the eighth to give the bullpen some breathing room.

R.J. Fondon entered the ninth inning even though he began the season as one of the starting pitchers.

The Golden Panthers have yet to lose a series this season. Their 19-8 overall record puts them one win away from matching last season’s.

“They’ve been the best team in the conference all year and to take two of three from them is big,” Townsend said. "I think it sends a message to the rest of the conference that we’re the real deal this year.”

Teammate Mason McVay walked one batter on four pitches and was taken out of the game.

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The Golden Panthers will play their next game at Florida Atlantic in Boca Raton on Wednesday, April 8 at 6 p.m., followed by a three-game series against Middle Tennessee which will begin with a double-header on April 10 at 5 p.m.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The University Fee Committee will be holding public hearings on April 13, 2009 at:

- **Biscayne Bay Campus:**
  - 10:30 am
  - WUC 155
- **University Park Campus:**
  - 2:00 pm
  - GC East Ballroom

The objective of these meetings will be to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to the proposed increase to the Activity & Service Fee. The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2009 term.

Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings.
SPRING IS HERE: Brandon Ellison wraps up running back DelVar's Lee in the 2009 Blue and Gold spring game. (Above) Jason Frenson, who led the team with 66 receiving yards evades a Marcellus Manners tackle. (Left) DT Jonas Murrell stalks Lee, in a contest that was dominated by the FIU defense. The D won the scrimmage 43-21.

Defense forces six turnovers in win

ANDREW JUJAN
Sports Director

The FIU defense forced the offense into mistakes throughout the evening, to take the spring game 43-21.

In the eighth annual Blue and Gold game, the FIU defense intercepted four passes and forced two fumbles, en route to a 43-21.

Points were awarded for defensive stops, turnovers, offensive first downs, touchdowns, field goals and extra points.

FIU saw its quarterbacks come out of the spring with solid efforts in the game. Incumbent starter Paul McCall was 14-of-22, with an interception, but led FIU to its first score, one of two Dustin Rivest field goals. Transfer Wesley Carroll finished 11-of-17 with a touchdown pass to Junior Mertile.

Senior Kim Rodriguez was the lead off hitter; she went 1-for-1 with a double with the bases loaded. Bermudez was the lead off hitter and he scored twice on 2-for-5 with five RBI. Mollica finished with solid efforts in the game. Incumbent starter Corey Polizzano when he gave up a three-run homer to Casey Dykes to put his team in an early 5-0 deficit. The Hilltoppers’ offensive drew blood first, but Townsend’s blast would jump-start the once dormant Golden Panthers’ offense.

In the fourth, Ryan Mollica’s double with the bases loaded gave the Golden Panthers their first lead of the game at 6-5.

Townsend was up next, and he delivered another home run over the left field wall. He went 3-for-4 hitting. The first three hitters combined to go 7-for-14 with eight RBI and five runs.

UL 9, FIU 0

Sun Belt Preseason Pitcher of the Year, Ashley Brigman (6-2), was too much for the Golden Panthers in the first game; she threw a five-inning, one-hitter, resulting in a 9-0 loss for FIU in five innings due to the run-rule.

Kasey Barrett (10-9) threw 3 1/3 innings for FIU giving up all nine runs, four of which were earned.

Senior Kim Rodriguez was the only Golden Panther to reach base; she went 1-for-1 with a single and walk.

UL 8, FIU 0

UL starting pitcher Donna Bourgeois (16-4) posed the biggest threat in game two, striking out eight Golden Panthers over five shutout innings.

FIU freshman Jennifer Gniadek (7-9) gave up five runs to the Ragin’ Cajuns in just three innings.

Once UL had produced a 5-0 lead, Paige Cassady came in to relieve Gniadek. She gave up two runs due to an error before Ashley McClain came in the bottom of the fifth inning to finish up for FIU.

UL recorded 11 hits and eight runs to steal the second win, another game that ended due to the run-rule in just five innings, which marked FIU’s third run-rule loss of the season.

FIU 3, UL 2

With defeat lurking in their minds from day one, FIU tried to avoid a weekend sweep on the second day of the series.

Freshman Ashley McClain (2-0) pitched her second complete game of the season and led the Golden Panthers to their first defeat of a ranked team since February 2008 when the team