Electrical failure affects GC

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

A power outage struck the Graham Center on Monday, leaving faculty and students in the dark. According to FIU’s Division of Facilities Management, an underground electric cable short-circuited and caused a fire which only affected the cables underground. Madeline Baró, assistant director of Media Relations, told Student Media that only about 20 percent of the Graham Center was affected.

“Mainly the newer parts like the atrium food court and the area with the hair salon and dry cleaners,” Baró said.

The outage affected several businesses in GC, including Subway, Einstein Bagels, Panther Dry Cleaners, Santi’s Hair and Nail Salon, and Waves Spa. This area also houses the Panther Card and Panther Dining computer systems; because of outage, the University was unable to accept Panther Cards and credit cards for various services throughout the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay Campuses.

Student shows ‘passion’ for craft in real setting

CASSANDRA STEVENS
Contributing Writer

Hard work pays off.

This proverb holds true of 26-year-old Matthew Moran, a hospitality management student at FIU. Moran’s passion for hospitality has given him the initiative to nurture his craft in a real-life setting — outside of class, textbooks and homework.

The South Beach Wine & Food Festival is his most momentous real-life setting to date.

Now in its ninth year of operation, the widely televised festival gathers cuisine-loving guests and world-renowned culinary personalities, from Emeril Lagasse to Rachael Ray to Paula Deen, together for four days of food sampling, wine tasting and pure enjoyment.

“This is our largest and longest-running event,” Moran said. “It takes a large team to coordinate. This is how I receive most of my responsibilities.”

In a highly publicized event that demands thousands of team members, and boasts thousands more attendees, with last year’s guests’ count closing in on 50,000, Moran finds his purpose in being the logistics manager. He is in charge of the Whole Foods Market, Guest and world-renowned

The event continued to be held at the Kovens Conference Center until 2001, when it was then relocated to an L-shaped tent on the outside grounds, adjacent to the Hospitality and Tourism Management Building. The festival was also extended to a three-day event which now includes a Friday night dinner party; a Saturday wine seminar and a grand tasting exposition held on Sunday.

In 2001, both professional chefs and hospitality and management students prepared the meals and more than 2,000 people attended.

The festival was fully reinvented for campaigns.

The College of Law has announced it will be making an addition to the clinical programs it already offers. The investor clinic will be offered as a course for credit and it will be offered for the first time in the Fall semester beginning in August, according to Peggy Maisel, associate professor of law and director of the legal clinics.

The investor clinic will be providing legal help to under-served investors involved in securities disputes.

“The plan is to have eight students enroll for four credits each semester. The new faculty director of the clinic will hopefully be hired and start in June,” Maisel said.

According to Maisel, her role in the investor clinic will be being responsible for the college’s obligations under the grant including making sure the investor advocacy clinic is started, helping to hire a full-time director, developing the curriculum, recruiting students for the clinic and outreach to the community.

According to the press release, the grant obligations the schools have are that each law school is required to demonstrate institutional support of the clinic beyond the three-year grant program and provide investor education and outreach in their community.
Sea World worker dies in whale tank

Tragedy struck Wednesday when a killer whale attacked its trainer in front of an audience at a Sea World show.

According to the Associated Press, audience member Victoria Hinman told WKMGT-TV that a show was just starting when the whale “took off really fast in the tank,” and then he came back, shot up in the air, grabbed the trainer by the waist and started thrashing around, and one of her shoes flew off.”

Distraught audience members were hustled out of the stadium, and the park was immediately closed.

The 40-year-old veteran trainer was one of the park’s most experienced. It was not clear exactly how she died.

WORLD

Lieutenant guilty of covering up civilian shooting

Former New Orleans police lieutenant Michael Lohman pleaded guilty Wednesday to obstruction of justice in connection with the police shootings of civilians in the days after Hurricane Katrina.

According to CNN, two civilians were killed and four others were injured in the shootings on the Danziger Bridge.

Justice in connection with the police shootings of civilians

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POWER, page 1

“Fortunately, we were able to establish temporary power to the computer systems Tuesday afternoon. Panther Cards and credit cards can now be used at all points of service,” said Jeff Krablin, assistant vice president of Business Services, in an e-mail to the University community.

Businesses on campus were not the only ones left in the dark, with several student organization offices in GC experiencing the blackout.

David Del Cristo, a student assistant for Campus Life, told Student Media that the Campus Life office has been working on only essential personnel working a provisional schedule.

“Basically all we are doing is letting students know that the power is out, and that any papers they turn in aren’t going to get filed for another week or until the power comes back,” Del Cristo said.

According to Del Cristo, the Campus Life office has not received a set estimate on when the power would return.

“Each day [since Monday] they’ve told us that in the afternoon, [power] should be working,” Del Cristo said.

According to Krablin, full power is expected to be restored late Wednesday evening.

Power outage lasted three days

Clients assigned to students

The clinic will be funded by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Investor Education Foundation. FINRA awarded grants to four schools recently amounting in $1 million, according to the press release.

According to its Web site, the FINRA Investor Education Foundation is the largest foundation in the U.S. dedicated to investor education for the many small investors in South Florida with securities disputes who cannot otherwise afford a lawyer.

Maisel added, “In response to this letter, I wrote a grant application for funding to start a clinic at FIU.”

According to Maisel, all that is left to do is hire a director to start and supervise the clinic and provide legal representation.

Maisel also explained that any papers they turn in aren’t going to get filed for another week or until the power comes back,” Del Cristo said.

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University celebrates Tree Campus status with planting of plum tree

LAURA DE LA FE
Staff Writer

Biscayne Bay Campus’ green thumb got a thumbs-up from a national conservation group.

Students and faculty gathered outside Academic One by the bay as the Arbor Day Foundation named the University a 2009 Tree Campus U.S.A. on Feb. 23.

The honor was signified by the presentation of a plaque to the University and the ceremonial planting of a pigeon plum tree, a species native to South Florida.

“We are the first university in Florida to have this program. It starts now with the ceremonial tree, but each year we will continue to plant more and more trees in order to meet the efforts of the Arbor Day Foundation,” said Steven Moll, interim vice provost.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit conservation and educational organization founded in 1972 dedicated to planting trees around the nation and conserving natural habitats.

In 2008, the Arbor Day Foundation started the Tree Campus U.S.A. program, which chooses colleges that meet certain requirements to participate and plant trees.

The universities chosen promote “healthy urban forest management and engage the campus community in environmental stewardship,” according to the foundation’s Web site.

Julissa Castellanos, director of operations at the Office of the Vice Provost at BCC, contacted the organization and submitted the necessary paperwork.

“There were a lot of criteria that we had to meet in order to do this, and a lot of paperwork I had to fill out,” Castellanos said.

To be certified, the University must meet five standards, including a tree care plan to properly maintain the trees and an event dedicated to the observance of the Arbor Day holiday.

The Aramark facilities team, including Senior Grounds Manager Diego Hurtado, planted the ceremonial tree.

“Being a part of the Students for Environmental Action Committee and the Organic Garden Club made me aware of the issues,” said Julissa and told us about the program we were immediately on board,” Hurtado said.

According to Hurtado, the pigeon plum tree will take three to five years to grow to its full height. The tree will continue to be maintained under the direction of Ronald Moss, senior grounds supervisor.

“We just planted about 30 trees at the School of Nursing. In the past, they would just cut down the trees, but now we try to relocate them,” Hurtado said.

Students at the ceremony, such as Lludia Dominguez, a sophomore and education major, hope to see the University continue its efforts for a green campus.

“I am taking an environmental studies class and came to see the tree dedication because it sounded interesting. I really like that FIU is doing something to better the environment,” Dominguez said.

Each year, the Arbor Day Foundation re-evaluates its Tree Campus U.S.A. campuses and decides if they continue to meet the criteria.

“We have to show our continuous improvement to make this a green campus,” Moll said.

Food and wine festival improves through time

SOBE, page 1

in 2002 by Director of Special Events and Media Relations at Southern Wine and Spirits of America, Lee Brian Schrager.

Schrager relocated the event to South Beach and renamed the event to its current title. The new location attracted almost 7,000 guests who attended a bevy of seminars, dinners, grand tastings, and for the first time, a live auction.

In 2000, the festival hit a new peak in popularity with 3,000 participants attending the day-long event, grossing approximately $4 million in ticket sales. The festival also raised $2 million for the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and $400,000 for student scholarships.

According to Mohammed Qureshi, assistant dean of hospitality and tourism management, the event will help the 900 students involved put their skills to use.

“Students can put into practice some managerial skills and learn techniques on how to operate a huge event,” he said.

The expectations from student participants for this year’s event are high and they are excited to be involved.

“This is the first year I will work the event. I am really excited to gain experience and do some networking,” Yensel Montane, a junior hospitality and tourism management major said.

GIRL TALK

PATRICIA HUNLEY (right), a peer educator for the Victim Advocacy Center, tells Kathy Francois (left), a student at the University, about the Center on Feb. 24 at the Lust for Life event presented by the Counseling & Psychological Services Center.

Hospitability student lauded for work ethic, positivity

MORAN, page 1

A little over 1,000 of the 1,800 FIU hospitality and tourism students register annually to participate in this gathering that is hosted by the University.

All proceeds received from the festival go directly to the school’s learning programs, benefiting these students professionally and academically.

Mohammed Qureshi, assistant dean in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, said the festival has a great impact on students who actively contribute to it.

“Our students get an incredible experience in putting into practice the management techniques they learn at school, industry contact, meaningful work experience plus scholarships,” Qureshi said.

The preparation for the festivities that premiere during South Florida’s February weather is extensive.

The University partners with the festival’s sponsors, including Food Network and Southern Wine & Spirits of Florida, to plan the event from beginning to end.

But with Moran involved, business is always equated with pleasure.

According to his mentor, Susan Gladstone, Moran’s work ethic is the genuine, unadulterated zest with which he does what he does.

“He accepts each assignment with enthusiasm, views new responsibilities as exciting challenges and is willing to put in the hours required to get the job done well,” said Gladstone, assistant dean in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Moran’s favorite part of it all is the feedback he receives from the students he supervises.

“I love seeing others succeed,” he said.

“This is one of the largest wine and food festivals in the country, and it’s an FIU tradition,” Moran said.

I don’t see my future as anything less than successful... Where life takes me, only time can tell.

MATTHEW MORAN, Student Hospitality and Management

As for his future, Moran remains hopeful. He dreams of someday opening his own resort where his hospitality skills will be freely practiced.

“If I don’t see my future as anything less than successful, I’m moving forward, I know that much. Where life takes me, only time can tell.”

Matthew Moran, Student Hospitality and Management
NASA's future may be in privatization of spaceflight

DAVID BARRIOS
Opinion Editor

It seems that NASA went out of all cultural relevance once old glory was planted on the moon’s Mare Tranquillitatis on July 20, 1969. Sure, there was Skylab, America’s first space station which brought countless advances to medical science. There was that little project called the Space Shuttle. Despite their occasional destruction, usually due to negligence, no one paid much attention to the reusable spacecraft.

Now and again, there’s a publicity stunt. Take for instance John Glenn, America’s first man to orbit the earth, who was launched into space in 1998 at the age of 77. The fact remains that space flight, for all of the risks involved, is routine in the public’s mind. President Obama’s newly proposed budget, introduced in late January, included a plan to spend $6 billion in trying to get private industry to build, launch and operate their own spacecraft.

Could you imagine the Apple logo on a large rocket taking off from the Kennedy Space Center? It is capitalism at its finest, with Steve Jobs in the pilot’s seat, no less.

A new plan to invest more money in NASA for a possible moon landing by the end of this decade and perhaps going to Mars is even a foolish plan. The American public has not been interested. It’s the death knell for NASA as we know it. Though some are surprised by the new shift in the agency’s function, there’s no need for shock.

Ever since SpaceX, a private firm, launched its first satellite into space last year, the purpose of the agency has been practically nullified. Though it will take time, it may be the birth of a new industry. Could you imagine the Apple logo on a large rocket taking off from the Kennedy Space Center? It is capitalism at its finest, with Steve Jobs in the pilot’s seat, no less.

Some insist that we leave space-flight to the professionals – that it’s too dangerous and complex for amateurs. Even as late as the Fall of 2009, SGA seemsingly prolonged the process, allowing little time to take the aforementioned revisions into consideration.
Play aims to incite women’s rights movement, explores gender roles

MARIA MURRIEL
Staff Writer

While Women’s History Month will not officially begin until March 1, the Women’s Studies Student Association has already prepared a three-day showcase of Eve Ensler’s play, The Vagina Monologues, for this last weekend of February. But what exactly are The Vagina Monologues?

To start, one should note the significance of the principal word in the title: vagina. Eve Ensler, a playwright and fervent activist, compiled it into a book the interviews she had with hundreds of women about their various experiences with the snatch in their hatch.

Ranging from love and orgasm to birth and mutilation, the monologues reveal an extraordinary sense of empowerment that these women find in their bodies and their sexuality. Every year, a new monologue addressing contemporary gender issues is added to the collection. However, no matter the topic, it is presented with what V-Day describes as “humor and grace” to engage audiences of all types. Anecdotes vary from comedic takes on visits to the gynecologist, to the painful tales of Bosnian women in rape camps, to a prostitute’s description of her techniques or a grandmother’s experience with the birth of her first grandchild.

The common characteristic of the stories is an invitation to learn to love oneself, vagina and all. In essence, The Vagina Monologues is a feminist comedy, dripping with the sauce and zing that make women powerful and indestructible.

Good-naturedly, FIU has allowed the WSSA to hold annual performances of the play as a part of V-Day for almost a decade. It’s only the largest bit of women’s rights activism the University partakes in.

V-Day is an organization that defines itself more as a “global movement” dedicated to ending violence against women and girls around the world. While the “V” in its name is a feminist punctuation of privacy.

Latin Vibes
Free galleries exhibit vibrant Latin American art

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Each month, the epicenter of Miami’s historic Little Havana, SW 8th Street, also known as Calle Ocho, closes down between 14th and 22nd avenues to host Viernes Culturales (Cultural Fridays), a vibrant look at Latin American art.

The festival is a free showcase of artists, sculptors and musicians that come together against the backdrop of Little Havana’s vibrant streets.

The festival happens on the last Friday of every month and each month has something special to add. This Friday, there is a free walking tour available. The tour, led by Dr. Paul George, historian for the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, begins on the front steps of the Tower Theater at 7 p.m. Look forward to the tour because Dr. George is acclaimed for his ability to tell about the people and places that make South Florida so unique.

The Tower Theater is the heart of Little Havana’s art scene. In the 1960s, the theater served as an introduction to American culture through film and entertainment. In 1997, it went under renovation and was designed with the purpose of creating a center for art, film and culture emerging in Miami’s immigrant minority communities. Today, it succeeds at providing Little Havana with an arts and culture mecca.

Galleries featuring work by renowned Cuban and Latin American artists will open their doors free of charge during the event. Cremata Gallery at 1646 SW 8th St. presents a solo show by Cuban artist Hernan Garcia. Garcia belongs to the generation of artists who followed the innovative art of Ponce, Lam and Victor Manuel, who defined Modernism in Cuban art. The focus of Garcia’s work is the “chair.” Garcia says the chair is a tribute to those friends “that allow us to rest, to think, to write, to dream and, of course, to draw and to paint.”

He created landscapes with the chair in which they could be seen as “fascinating beings with fascinating stories.”

The gallery says his art is a representation of the solitude of humanity and the chair is painted in a range of different scenarios, “living their tragedies or their comedies, but always revealing the brutal emptiness or loneliness.”

拒絕的 emptiness or loneliness.
Association aims to end inequality

MONOLOGUES, page 5

may guide you to think it’s Feb. 14 all over again, “valentine” is only one of the words it represents.

V-Day stands for valentine, victory and vagina. The efforts of the movement are directed toward freeing oppressed women from their aggressive, violent environ-

ments and embracing their womanhood with pride and hope. Not only do the participants believe in gender justice for the entire world, but they also deliver their message wrapped in a sheet of friendly-but-fiery creativity. Along with performances of Ensler’s compila-

tion, V-Day provides colleges that are interested in participating with a selection of plays, films, lectures and workshops all geared toward people’s education in gender equality.

“We hold a screening of the film Until the Violence Stops, which shows how The Vagina Monologues grew into the V-Day movement,” said Lupe Juarez, president of the WSSA and director of the FIU run of the play. In the spirit of fairness and equality, the WSSA does not discriminate in casting for the play. Auditions are held in October, and every FIU student is welcome to try out. Once the logistics are worked out, the fund-

raising begins.

This spring, the cast and crew invaded Graham Center with the unassuming Vagina Pop sales. The white and milk-chocol-

ate vagina-shaped treats provided a deli-

cious and eerie, almost-accurate image of the female organ. All the profits collected from their endeavors are sent directly to V-

Day to help women and girls in Africa and Asia overcome cruelty.

Ultimately, the WSSA’s hope in staging these productions is to contribute to the worldwide cause of women’s rights. Juarez believes the club’s small efforts add up to the greater cause.

“No only do the V-Day events make a difference, but I feel that by informing audi-

ciences, we are contributing to ending violence against women... and helping to spread the word, which is also important.”

No one to blame but ourselves for lack of Web privacy

FISTFULS, page 5

The grips of a terrible economic recession and people have given Zynga $100 million of their hard earned money to buy a digital pig they can use to sniff out digital truffles on their digital farm. Give me a break.

Popular online games like Farmville are tricking gullible and bond Internet users into giving them real money for fake crap, all while stripping them of their privacy.

The Internet itself is slowly turning its back on the sanctity of privacy. What I find most shocking about it isn’t so much that it’s happening, but that we as Americans, the people who most vocal about our privacy, are just letting it happen.

In a December 2009 interview with NBC, Google CEO Eric Schmidt uttered the most chilling words in the Internet’s history.

“If you have something that you don’t want anyone to know, maybe you shouldn’t be doing it in the first place,” Schmidt said when talking to Maria Bartiromo during a big Google NBC special report.

This definitely doesn’t fall in line with Google’s overall philosophy, “don’t be evil.”

Recently, Google launched its new social service called Google Buzz.

What made this product launch different than its other ones is that Google tested this product internally for a few months and then thrust it upon the world randomly, some-
ting they don’t normally do.

Shortly after, people’s contact lists and e-

mail information were broadcast all over the Internet.

One lady in Florida was shocked to find that Buzz broadcasted her frequently contacted list to everyone on her contacts, including her abusive ex-boyfriend.

A class action lawsuit ensued from that case, and now Google is in the middle of the room with anti-privacy egg all over its face.

Google is a lot better than most companies when it comes to privacy and freedom of infor-

mation, however.

If you visit google.com/adwords, for example, you can view all the Google services you use and exactly how much information they have on you.

The Internet search giant also funds an inde-

pendent project called the Data Liberation Front (dataliberation.org), which helps users with information in Web apps, such as GoogleDocs and Gmail, to get their information out should they decide to stop using Google products.

To me there is no doubt, the Internet killed privacy because we allowed it to.

We depend on the Internet more and more everyday to store our information, communi-

cates with others and generally make our lives easier.

But, in making our lives easier, we make a sacrifice: control of our information.

Fotios of Tech is a weekly tech column. Look for it every Friday.
MTSU showcases five starters in double figures

WOMEN’S, page 8

a team, I felt today there were a few people who were very individual.”

Just two players reached double figures for FIU. Rodgers totaled 17 points while Fanni Hutlassa, who shot 3-of-11 from the field, knocked down 10 off the bench.

FIU took 23 shots from beyond the arc and made just seven of them while MTSU went 17-for-26 from three-point land.

Five of those MTSU three-pointers were by point-guard Chelsea Lymon, who totaled 15 points on the night.

Meanwhile, Clark led the team with 25 points and 8 rebounds – a typical night for the Blue Raiders’ lockdown defense.

“The second half was more efficient for the Golden Panthers as they improved to 40 percent shooting. The Blue Raiders, however, were also able to improve a bit as they shot 64.3 percent in the second half compared to 60.6 in the first stanza.”

In the second half, MTSU went up by as much as 51 points and closed out the game with a 100 percent effort from the free-throw line (8-of-8).

“We lost it in transition. They’re good, make their shots, and always get open.”

Michelle Gonzalez
FIU point guard

“The series against the Terrapins gave a number of players a chance to try and earn a permanent spot in the starting lineup.”

As always, The Beacon is looking for ambitious, self-driven and talented writers, photographers and graphic artists to join our staff.

Submit your application to GC 210 or WOC 124.

Baseball, page 8

The Blue Raiders’ lockdown defense

“We got in the opening weekend, that was capped off with a grand slam on Feb. 21. The series against the Terrapins gave a number of players a chance to try and earn a permanent spot in the starting lineup.”

As always, The Beacon is looking for ambitious, self-driven and talented writers, photographers and graphic artists to join our staff.

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Blue Raiders blowout FIU to end streak

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

After winning their sixth straight game last week, FIU point guard Michelle Gonzalez and the Golden Panthers were confident that they could at least put up a fight against Middle Tennessee State University and the Sun Belt conference’s leading scorer, Alysha Clark.

“She is a player that is going to score anyway, but she can’t win by herself,” said Gonzalez after a win against Florida Atlantic on Feb. 17. “But if we can stop the guards, that would be a good plan. I think we have an opportunity to win.”

However, from FIU’s defense to their offense, intensity lacked and Gonzalez’ words were never showcased as all MTSU starters, including Clark, scored in double figures to defeat FIU 101-58 on Feb. 24 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

“We lost it in transition,” Gonzalez said. “They’re good, make their shots, and always get open.”

Making their shots and staying open was exactly what the Blue Raiders (21-5, 16-1) showcased early on as they stunned the Golden Panthers (14-14, 9-8) with a 28-0 run in the first 10 minutes of the game to go up 30-3.

“That team beats everybody by 30 to 40 points and they just keep the same intensity,” Gonzalez said. “That’s the way they practice.”

Sophomore Rakia Rodgers was able to break the devastating run with a three-pointer, off the bench, for the Golden Panthers.

As a team, however, FIU shot 17.9 percent and there was a lack of intensity, said FIU coach Pike.

“Poor game and the quality of pitch made it hard to maneuver, but it also helped that our opponent took erratic shots giving our defense an opportunity to shutout the FIU offense at home.”

Sophomore Bermudez is beginning to make a name for himself in the Sun Belt Conference.

The sophomore outfielder was named the SBC Player of the Week on Feb. 22 after helping bolster the Golden Panther offense against Maryland in a season opening three-game sweep.

Bermudez emerged as the star of the series with a .545 (6-for-11) batting average, in addition to a grand slam on Feb. 21 in a 4-1 victory to close out the series. He also picked up two doubles, two stolen bases and six RBIs to help give FIU (3-0, 0.00 Sun Belt) its first sweep of an ACC opponent in its history.

This marks the first time that Bermudez has won the award.

After the Maryland series, the jury is still out on who will emerge as the Golden Panthers closer.

When a save opportunity came up in the final game of the Maryland series, FIU head coach Turtle Thomas opted for Jorge Marban to come in and shut the door over redshirt freshman Bruno Garcia.

Marban struggled early, walking the first two batters he faced and allowing the tying run to score.

MTSU 101, FIU 58

IRTRAMURAL SOCCER: FRATERNITY

Conditions lead to sloppy play, numerous blowouts

ANDRES LEON
Contributing writer

Wet AstroTurf and light winds were the players and officials’ fears on Feb. 22, but the winds began to die down as five matches started, including Clark, scored in double figures to defeat FIU 101-58 on Feb. 24 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

“We lost it in transition,” Gonzalez said. “They’re good, make their shots, and always get open.”

Making their shots and staying open was exactly what the Blue Raiders (21-5, 16-1) showcased early on as they stunned the Golden Panthers (14-14, 9-8) with a 28-0 run in the first 10 minutes of the game to go up 30-3.

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