Campuses and states nationwide banning controversial energy drink

Natalia Lopez  Staff Writer

Four Loko, a controversial drink also known as “blackout in a can,” has led several campuses and states to completely ban the caffeinated alcoholic beverage.

Recently, in anticipation of a Food and Drug Administration ban on the beverage, the makers of Four Loko have decided to remove the drink’s caffeine ingredient.

“The addition of the caffeine impairs the ability of the drinker to tell when they’re drunk,” explained Dr. Mary Claire O’Brien to The New York Times.

The drink has been banned at two campuses so far, Ramapo College in New Jersey and Central Washington University. Nine students have been hospitalized after repeated consumption at an off-campus Central Washington University party.

According to The Associated Press, the students were taken to the hospital with blood alcohol levels that ranged from 0.12 percent to a life threatening 0.35 percent. They also reported that the students had been mixing drinks such as vodka, rum and beer with Four Loko.

“I only drink one Four Loko a night,” said Yari Trivy, junior who went on to explain she typically mixes the beverage with other drinks. “Those nights, I blacked out.”

After noticing the large amount of students that were mixing alcoholic beverages with caffeine, Chris Hunter, Jason Freeman and Jeff Wright came up with the idea of Four Loko in the year 2005. Hunter, Freeman and Wright are Ohio State University graduates.

The name Four Loko was derived from the four active ingredients in the drink: caffeine, taurine, guarana and alcohol. The drink sells for less than three dollars and is available in ten different flavors including: grape, fruit punch and citrus.

One Four Loko has the same amount of caffeine as about two cups of coffee, the same amount of alcohol as six light beers and contains 660 calories, which is the same as a McDonald’s cheeseburger Happy Meal.

It has already been banned in Washington, Michigan, Utah and Oklahoma.

One Four Loko has the same amount of caffeine as: about two cups of coffee, the same amount of alcohol as six light beers and contains 660 calories, which is the same as a McDonald’s cheeseburger Happy Meal.

It has already been banned in Washington, Michigan, Utah and Oklahoma.

Chinese club takes home first and second place in race

Miriam Arias  Staff Writer

Winning first and second place in the worldwide Dragon Boat Race this past Saturday, the FIU Chinese Club proved that hard work mixed with teamwork and some laid-back fun leads to success.

The Dragon Boat Festival originated in China as the result of an intriguing legend. According to student and club member, Rebekah Lyew-Ayee, the boat races began as a way to honor Qu Yuan, a Chinese war hero who served during the Warring States (475 to 221 BC).

“He was a wise and erudite man who was exiled due to his constant fight against corruption; even in exile, he did not give up however,” said Lyew-Ayee. According to the legend, he taught and wrote about his ideas and fought for his mother country.

At the eve of discovering that Chu State had been defeated during the war however, he chose to end his life by drowning himself in Miluo River.

People’s reaction to his death was so strong that they looked for a way to honor him. The Dragon Boat Race is the event that commemorates his death. The festival usually occurs on the 5th day of the 5th month of the Chinese Lunar calendar.

“The dragon boats are search party boats. They throw the zongzi (sticky rice) into the water to keep the fishes from eating Qu Yuan,” said Lyew-Ayee. “The dragon boats are search party boats. They throw the zongzi (sticky rice) into the water to keep the fishes from eating Qu Yuan,” said Lyew-Ayee.

“They are search party boats. They throw the zongzi (sticky rice) into the water to keep the fishes from eating Qu Yuan,” said Lyew-Ayee.

“On the day of the festival they throw the zongzi (sticky rice) into the water to keep the fishes from eating Qu Yuan,” said Lyew-Ayee.

The FIU Chinese Club, Carol Wang, believes the event helped the students participating to form a closer relationship with each other. “We all hoped that we would win,” said Klebleyev. “I can’t say what the other participants were thinking, but I am pretty sure it was that,” said Ho, a first time participant in the event. “We all hoped that we would finish the race, and that nothing embarrassing would happen, like the boat flipping or sinking, which did happen once during the competition.”

Aside from being a culturally oriented program that involves a great deal of practice, hard work and dedication, President of the FIU Chinese Club, Carol Wang, believes the event helped the students participating to form a closer relationship with each other. “We all hoped that we would win,” said Klebleyev. “I can’t say what the other participants were thinking, but I am pretty sure it was that,” said Ho, a first time participant in the event. “We all hoped that we would finish the race, and that nothing embarrassing would happen, like the boat flipping or sinking, which did happen once during the competition.”

Professor wins research award

Laebony Livingston  Staff Writer

School of Computing and Information Sciences Associate Professor, Vagelis Hristidis, won a Google Research Award in the amount of $70,000. Although SCIS has never received an award of this kind before, it is the first time Hristidis has been recognized for his work.

Since coming to the University in 2004, Hristidis has received the Excellence in Research Award from the University in 2006 and was published in Discovery on Electronic Health Records in 2009.

In an effort to deepen a connection between Google and universities, the Google Research Award
Drink known to give users a ‘delayed drunk feeling’

LOKO, page 1

In addition to these four states, The Huffington Post reported that Governor Patterson and the New York State Liquor Authority have banned the drink in the state of New York. Four Loko is known to give drinkers a “delayed drunk feeling.” The caffeine prevents the drinker from feeling the effect of the alcohol. Once it wears off though, the effects are sudden. “My words slurred, I was off balance, but I do remember the whole night,” was off balance, but I do remember the whole night,” was off balance, but I do remember the whole night,” was off balance, but I do remember the whole night,” was off balance, but I do remember the whole night,” said Ripley Lupine. “I didn’t really have any winning expectations before the actual race day and I certainly didn’t expect our winning of two trophies.”

Google, page 2

programs identify exceptional full-time faculty pursuing research in areas of mutual interest.

Hristidis’ project, the Collaborative Adaptive Data Sharing Platform, is a next-generation data-sharing platform where the systems interacts with the user at data insertion and querying to effectively annotate and match the shared data. According to his website, the goal of the project is to create a system that is capable of learning and recommending annotations for new documents and integrating structured and keyword queries for retrieval.

Hristidis’ research focused on working out how to facilitate more effective searches on databases, particularly in emergencies. This database would guide users to search in a more precise manner. “Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool,” said Hristidis. The project is meant to be tailored to specific communities or domains with their own databases. Hristidis accepted his award along with collaborator Panagiotis Ipeirotis in a more precise manner. “Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool,” said Hristidis. The project is meant to be tailored to specific communities or domains with their own databases. Hristidis accepted his award along with collaborator Panagiotis Ipeirotis in a more precise manner. “Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool,” said Hristidis. The project is meant to be tailored to specific communities or domains with their own databases. Hristidis accepted his award along with collaborator Panagiotis Ipeirotis in a more precise manner. “Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool,” said Hristidis. The project is meant to be tailored to specific communities or domains with their own databases. Hristidis accepted his award along with collaborator Panagiotis Ipeirotis in a more precise manner. “Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool,” said Hristidis. The project is meant to be tailored to specific communities or domains with their own databases. Hristidis accepted his award along with collaborator Panagiotis Ipeirotis in a more precise manner. “Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool,” said Hristidis. The project is meant to be tailored to specific communities or domains with their own databases. Hristidis accepted his award along with collaborator Panagiotis Ipeirotis in a more precise manner. “Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool,” said Hristidis. The project is meant to be tailored to specific communities or domains with their own databases. Hristidis accepted his award along with collaborator Panagiotis Ipeirotis in a more precise manner. “Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool,” said Hristidis. The project is meant to be tailored to specific communities or domains with their own databases. Hristidis accepted his award along with collaborator Panagiotis Ipeirotis in a more precise manner. “Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool,” said Hristidis. The project is meant to be tailored to specific communities or domains with their own databases. Hristidis accepted his award along with collaborator Panagiotis Ipeirotis in a more precise manner. “Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool,” said Hristidis. The project is meant to be tailored to specific communities or domains with their own databases. Hristidis accepted his award along with collaborator Panagiotis Ipeirotis in a more precise manner. “Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool,” said Hristidis. The project is meant to be tailored to specific communities or domains with their own databases. Hristidis accepted his award along with collaborator Panagiotis Ipeirotis in a more precise manner. “Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool,” said Hristidis. The project is meant to be tailored to specific communities or domains with their own databases. Hristidis accepted his award along with collaborator Panagiotis Ipeirotis in a more precise manner. “Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool,” said Hristidis. The project is meant to be tailored to specific communities or domains with their own databases. Hristidis accepted his award along with collaborator Panagiotis Ipeirotis in a more precise manner. “Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool,” said Hristidis. The project is mean...
FOOTBALL: FIU 38, ULL 17

Panthers rank first in Sun Belt after trouncing Troy

In the week prior to FIU’s last road game against University of Louisiana-Lafayette, red-shirt sophomore receiver Junior Mertile was asked to switch position and play defensive back. Cristobal’s sudden roster changed paid dividends as Mertile took back an interception 26 yards for a touchdown. That touchdown helped lead the Golden Panthers to a 38-17 victory over the Ragin’ Cajuns.

“During the open week he played some corner just to try him out and it was really good. We put him there this week and he meshed well and played some defense,” said defensive coordinator Geoff Collins.

Collins assigned safety Ash Parker to shadow Mertile at corner. “We had Ash Parker go to his side most of the time and before every play Junior [Mertile] would look at Ash [Parker] , Ash would tell him what to do. [After the interception] everyone was happy for him,” Collins said.

According to Cristobal, Mertile will likely play defense throughout the remainder of the season. Cristobal however, did not count him at possibly lining up in the wildcat formation. “I’m both [an offensive minded player and a defensive minded player]. It doesn’t matter where they put me at. I’m going to do my thing,” Mertile said.

Carroll orchestrated the longest drive of the season and possibly the longest drive in school history. The redshirt junior drove the Golden Panthers 99 yards down the field, which was capped off by a six-yard play-action pass for a touchdown to Jonathan Faucher to take an early lead.

After nailing a field goal to cut FIU’s lead to 7-3 in the second quarter, the Cajuns (2-9, 2-5 SBC) held the Golden Panthers (5-5, 5-1 SBC) to a three and out. The fourth down punt by Josh Brisk was blocked by Cajun receiver Vernon Wolfe at the FIU 41-yard line. Wolfe bobbled the recovery all the way down to the FIU two-yard line, as free safety Lionel Stokes fell on the football. Geoff Collins’ defensive unit rose to the occasion as the Cajuns had a chance to steal the lead at the two-yard line.

The defense shut down four consecutive quarterback sneaks up the middle with Gautier. On fourth and goal at the goal line, Gautier ran into his own receiver, Marlin Miller, who was in motion. Joshua Forney took advantage and stopped Gautier short of the end zone. “It was big for our defense. We had to dig down deep and get a stop. It took all eleven guys on the team to come up and get that stop. It was a momentum changing play because they had just blocked a punt,” said Forney. The Golden Panthers came out of the locker room in the third quarter with quick four-play drive, highlighted by a 49-yard bomb from Carroll to T.Y. Hilton. That deep pass led to a five-yard scamper by Darriet Perry, which gave the Golden Panthers a 14-3 lead at the time.

Perry wound up scoring three touchdowns on 20 carries for 77 yards on the ground.

SACK RECORD BROKEN

Geoff Collins’ defense tacked up seven sacks in the game, breaking the single-season sack record of 24 sacks in a season. Jarvis Wilson, Winston Fraser, Jose Cheeseborough and Tourek Williams each had a sack.

The Golden Panthers now have 29 sacks, with two games remaining this season.
Krajac boosts Panthers off bench in home opener

RICCO ALBARRACIN
Staff Writer

Trailing 32-16 at the half, the Panthers realized they had to do something to cut down the deficit. Coach Russo then made a move that would affect the outcome of the game: putting in Maja Krajacic.

FIU overcame a 16-point deficit to defeat Eastern Kentucky 59-52 to win their home opening matchup. Without Elisa Carey, who is scheduled to return in mid-December from a knee injury, the Panthers struggled with interior defense.

The turning point came with 3:41 left in the first half, Russo said. "It was at this point that Gonzalez stepped up and played his best game in an Panthers uniform.

"I was on the phone with Phil, he told me the settings at the top. "You can say anything to the guys and they are going to do it.

For the Panthers (3-1 in scoring with 18 points on 7-of-10 shooting off the bench, Frederick, who started the team’s first three games this year, sat out on a coaches decision.

"He did well and responded off the bench," Thomas said.

Frederick was pleased with his performance, and acknowledged that he needed to adjust his approach to the game.

"I came off the bench today, because the game against FSU, I had a attitude," Frederick said. "Coach didn’t like that too much so he made me come off the bench today and just told me to keep my head and play hard. That’s what I did, I couldn’t keep my head down because my team needed me.

Frederick also grabbed six rebounds and made two 3-pointers.

"I just thought I would come into this game and do everything the right way," Frederick said. "So coach wouldn’t have to get on me after every timeout or something like that. I just decided it was time to step up and be a man. I’m not in junior college anymore and I was baby faced back then. I can’t do it now."

FIU shot 50 percent as a team, partly making up for being out-rebounded 34 to 29.

The Panthers shot 6-40 from 3-point territory as well. The team is now 3-1 for the first time since 2008-09. Isaiah Williams led Utah Valley (0-2) in scoring with 14 points.

Jordan Swartzbrick dropped 11 points on 3-of-4 shooting, while Geddes Robinson added 10 for the Wolverines in defeat.

MEN’S BASKETBALL: FIU 65, UTAH VALLEY 62

Frederick leads way with 18 points as defense holds
GOLDEN GIRL

Freshman Gabriella Yidi performs at this year’s Golden Idol, where she won first place. Yidi can be seen performing at the Mr. and Mrs. Dance Marathon event on Nov. 23.

FASHION FINDS

T-shirts you should never wear to school

I’m a huge fan of t-shirts. I love them because they’re easy to wear with anything. Dressed up or down, a white or black v-neck t-shirt is the most valuable item in my closet. I live in them and make sure to grab a new one every time I go to the stores.

What I’d like to know is why people choose to take my beloved tees and destroy them with ridiculous graphics. So, here’s my list of tees you should never wear:

1. VOTE FOR PEDRO TEES

It’s just dumb. It might have been funny or cool when Napoleon Dynamite came out six years ago, but now it’s not. The tees have outlasted the popularity of the movie and it hurts my eyes when I see these tees. I’m pretty bitter about this one.

2. CROP TOPS

I thought midriff-baring tees were a thing of the past, but they’ve made a big comeback over the past few months. My main problem with this style is when girls who don’t feel comfortable baring their stomach wear a cami underneath.

The look is way too Flashdance for anyone to appreciate and it wreaks havoc on proportion. It will look better if you just don’t wear a cami at all and show your stomach. A little oblivious, I’ll admit, but I might just be jealous of someone’s abs and I’m taking it out on the top.

3. ED HARDY, AFFLICTION AND CHRISTIAN AUDIGIER

For guys, it is the easiest way to show someone you’re a douche. I’m not even sure how these shirts became popular. They are shirts for guys with glitter and rhinestones on them. The shirts look cheap but run for $75-90. Ladies, if a guy wearing these shirts flirts with you, run. These tees look cheap but run for $75-90. Ladies, if a guy wearing these shirts flirts with you, run. He probably fist pumps.

4. WEARING NOVELTY TEES, WHEN YOU REALLY DON’T KNOW WHAT THE TEE IS ABOUT

I’m only saying this because I see it all the time. I’ll see plenty of girls wearing Pink Floyd and The Ramones tees when I know they can’t sing a single line of any of their songs. It’s cool when you wear a band or comic tee when you are a fan or super nerd that’s obsessed. I’m all for expressing your love of a band, movie or character – but don’t wear it just because you think the shirt looks cool.

5. PAJAMA TEES

I think PINK by Victoria’s Secret is really cute for going to sleep but not for going to school. The baggy sweatpants with “PINK” sprawled across the tush aren’t appropriate either.

6. TEE SUPPORTING OTHER UNIVERSITIES

You go to FIU, show your pride. If you aren’t happy with that, get over it. Don’t wear another school’s tee just because you want to support another Miami school but didn’t want to spend $38,000 a year on tuition.

7. TEE THAT TELL ME ABOUT YOUR BODILY FUNCTIONS

These tees might be funny if you’re a 12-year-old boy, but in college I don’t want to know how you get a seat in the back of a bus by farting thanks to your t-shirt’s comic strip design.
Comedian crosses the pond to perform in comedy show

JESSICA MENDOZA
Staff Writer

Every month students laugh out loud as SPC hosts their comedy shows. Known for bringing in acts like Jo Koy and Gabriel Iglesias this month the SPC has scheduled British Comedy Award nominee, Jim Tavare, to perform.

Since hitting the stage for season six of NBC’s Last Comic Standing in 2008, Jim Tavare has become one of comedy’s major forces. Most recently, he’s performed all over the county, showcasing his act on about sixty stages alongside the other finalists.

Tavare is a breakout newcomer in the U.S. having already worked with major Hollywood acts like Ricky Gervais. He even landed a spot in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban as Tom the innkeeper of The Leaky Cauldron. Originally a bass player, Tavare used his knowledge of the instrument to inspire one of his earlier acts: a six-part series of ten-minute short films that hit the BBC airwaves and garnered high ratings from British television audiences.

His show, Masterclass, was performed at the Edinburgh Festival and won him a nomination for the Perrier Awards. Shortly after, he was invited to Montreal’s Just for Laugh Festival. His stint on the stage attracted interest from NBC executives who wrote an episode of the long running comedy series, Wings, based on his act.

This led to Tavare writing his own sketch comedy show alongside Ricky Gervais. Soon after, the British comedian performed three times at the Royal Variety Command Performance. Tavare has also performed for the Royal Family, performing by special request at Prince Charles’ private Christmas party. Tavare was later invited to join the cast of Steve Coogan’s sketch comedy company in 2001. The show was composed of 30 sketches and won the very prestigious BAFTA—British equivalent to an Academy Award. After touring with Last Comic Standing, Tavare is in the process of establishing a growing film career with an upcoming role in Dentrich McClure’s Dry. South. Having performed in several big name festivals and comedy stages, Tavare will hit the GC Ballroom stage on Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. Tickets are free with a valid FIU student ID.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

**MONDAY, NOV. 22**

JIM TAVARE COMEDY SHOW

Presemted by SPC-WMC. Jim Tavare, finalist in Last Comic Standing and also the innkeeper in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, will perform at the GC Ballroom.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 23**

FIU Music presents “Symphonies side by side”

CONCERT

Join the Georgia Symphony Orchestra and the FIU Symphony Orchestra for a free performance by popular symphonies.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Visit the Resident Hall Association for a dinner catered by Boston Market! Enjoy a 6-9 p.m. Free: SPC Organizes Garden ELOKUVA FESTIVALI

SPA: BBC presents a student art exhibit featuring student artwork and performance by Kiss and speaker. Free: GC Ballroom Lawn

Lecture: Funding Opportunities in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

Guest speaker Christian Minogue, PhD of the National Science Foundation. Free: GC Ballroom Lawn

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24**

THANKSGIVING DINING

Join the Resident Hall Association for a dinner catered by Boston Market! Attire is semi-formal. Bring two to three cans of goods for charity.

**THANKSGIVING DINER**

FIU thanksgiving union

WHERE: 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballroom Lawn

Lecture: Funding Opportunities in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

Guest speaker Christian Minogue, PhD of the National Science Foundation. Free: GC Ballroom Lawn

**THURSDAY, NOV. 25**

Bsu thanksgiving union

WHERE: 12 - 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GCPH

SAMPORNJA YOGA

Join the yoga club for a free hour of samporna style yoga.

WHERE: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballroom Lawn

Lecture: Funding Opportunities in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

Guest speaker Christian Minogue, PhD of the National Science Foundation. Free: GC Ballroom Lawn

**FRIDAY, NOV. 26**

Lecture: Funding Opportunities in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

Guest speaker Christian Minogue, PhD of the National Science Foundation. Free: GC Ballroom Lawn

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24**

**FIU thanksgiving union**

WHERE: 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GCPH

Student thanksgiving union

WHERE: 12 - 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GCPH

**SUNDAY, NOV. 28**

Bsu thanksgiving union

WHERE: 12 - 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GCPH

Lecture: Funding Opportunities in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

Guest speaker Christian Minogue, PhD of the National Science Foundation. Free: GC Ballroom Lawn

Social networking and body images affects students

Dear Vicki,

Last week I have been feeling really down on myself when I look in the mirror. I’m really unhappy with the way I look and I feel like I will never be beautiful in the way I want to. It’s hard for me to feel happy when I am not happy with my body. What do I do?

Signed,
Frustrated

Dear Frustrated,

It sounds like you are putting a lot of pressure on yourself. College is a perfect time for you to explore who you are and how you want to contribute to the world. But it’s hard to explore the other parts of your identity when all you see is yourself.

This is a time to engage in different activities and in different relationships (friendships and romantic) to help you see how much you have to contribute.

Furthermore, the FIU Counseling Center is now offering an 8-week online program called “Student Bodies.” This program is open to women who struggle with body image problems. This is a brand new program and it is free to you as a female student. If you’re interested, just give the Counseling Center a call at 305-348-2434.

Probably one of the most important yet difficult things for us to do is have compassion for ourselves. I know it’s hard to be kind to yourself when you feel like you aren’t reaching the standards you (and society) have imposed.

But just remember— you are doing the best you can with what you’ve got at this very moment. Taking some of the intense pressure off of yourself will allow you to feel good about the positive steps you do take and will help keep you motivated to keep moving.

**WHY FACEBOOK NEEDS A DISLIKE BUTTON**

Although Facebook has become a popular and enjoyable way to keep in contact with your friends and family, you may not realize ways in which Facebook could negatively affect you. You may not be casting yourself in the most positive light on Facebook. One study found that out of 200 Facebook profiles, 53% contained pictures involving alcohol use, 42% had comments about alcohol, 25% had semi or provocative pictures, 20% had information about sexual activities and 50% contained profanity.

Social networking sites, like Facebook, can be used by employers to screen job applicants. Interestingly, 63% of employers who did use social networking sites mentioned they did not hire applicants based on what they found.

The way we portray ourselves can affect our relationships. People begin to have more superficial relationships with a larger amount of people. People end up feeling like they are socializing, yet it is at a distance and not very intimate.

Facebook increases the likelihood that you or your boy/girlfriend may become jealous by making it more likely that you will have contact with past sexual partners and your current partner will have access to this information.

Actually seeing your partner interacting in some way with their previous partners may be more likely to trigger jealousy. People who are usually jealous are likely to find that Facebook increases their jealousy.

In addition, the time spent on Facebook increases the likelihood that a person might experience jealousy over their partner’s interactions with past partners. Lastly, the information seen on a person’s Facebook page can easily be misrepresented and taken out of context, and this can lead to more jealousy and arguments.

In the point is, your Facebook account is your internet identity and it will follow you in the years to come. It reflects who you are and what you represent. Would you be comfortable with your parents or your kids seeing your Facebook account in the future? If the answer is no, you may want to take a second glance at that edit button.

Vicki Burns is a pre-doctoral intern at the FIU Counseling and Psychological Services who will be graduating from University of Miami with a PhD in Counseling Psychology. Once she completes her internship at FIU, Vicki plans on working as a psychologist and a professor with college students struggling with various difficulties.
U.S. reality not as bleak as some believe

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

There’s no denying that the public mood in this country has lately been one of unri-
mended, pervasive gloom. This is not too surprising given the circumstances: a recession
that pervades our everyday lives, a persistent unemployment rate, an unaffordable public
debt, deadlocked and aloof politicians and a general sense that America is on its last legs
as a world power.

Add all the usual societal troubles about crime, the war in Iraq, terrorism, immi-
grantation and the fact that we’re too divided to face them, let alone find solutions, and it seems reasonable to us despair.

Still, I remain optimistic. To me, this is a natural reaction to the worst recession in
almost 80 years. Look back and you’ll find similar epidemics of gloom in the late 1960s,
the 1970s and the early 1980s. In part, it’s just a phase.

Despite all the daunting problems we face, we Americans are being far more pes-
mistic than we should. We’re underesti-
mating this country’s many strengths while overestimating its weaknesses. Worst of all,
we’re perpetuating a cycle of cynicism and apathy that only allows these challenges to
become worse.

The United States still is, by all measures, the wealthiest, most productive and most
innovative country in the world. Our country still remains a magnet for millions of people
across the globe, and our universities continue to be top-notch. Even our political
system, in spite of its polarization, remains one of the most vibrant and developed in
the West.

We, the American people, remain collectively despondent as if all accomplishment has melted away in
the last few years of economic stagnation. Clearly, this entrenched pessimism stems from other sources.

Living in a free and open society means being exposed to all sorts of things, including the negative. It’s not that times have gotten worse, but that we’re more aware of
the problems that past generations, or non-democratic societies, would otherwise be unaware of.

That is where mass media and tech-

In conjunction with our open society is an unprecedented development in telecommu-
nications and social networking that keeps us constantly filled with everything from
the rarely newsworthy to the vitally important.

Everyone, from world leaders all the way
down to anonymous bloggers and demo-
gogues, could throw ideas in the mix, further muddying the waters and leaving us feeling more uncertain—and thus more hopeless.

It doesn’t help that humans are drawn to negative news in the first place. While this
is an odd mix of being too informed about the negative and uninformed and not as informed about the bigger picture or deeper issues.

As with any societal problem, there really is no quick fix. We as Americans simply need to
learn how to adapt to the information age and not allow everything we see and hear weigh on us all at once. We need to look at
the problems, but also the solutions. We need to acknowledge the flaws and tribulations that exist, and yet also acknowledge our triumphs and accomplishments. In that way, we need to be
level-headed.

The American public is a very ideological and moderate who just wants to live a comfortable life. We shouldn’t allow ourselves to succumb to the gloom and doom.

Independent and small
time musicians actually
benefit from file sharing
because they are getting free
exposure to more fans.

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

With recent advancements in media technology, there are many new ways to enjoy the
latest music, video and games. Many industries have expanded their ways products reach consumers by using digital mediums.

However, piracy is replacing traditional means of distribution mass music piracy can cause
having a hard time keeping up.

Piracy, or illegal file sharing, turns
out not to be an asset for the
music industry, should it choose to
evolve and embrace it.

Many people have decided that music is more affordable on the compact disk, is no longer worth purchasing.

For the past decade, the music industry has been fighting hard to hold on to the golden
business model of the 1960s and 1970s, when consumers had no
other option but to go to a store
and purchase music by physical
copies.

When mega corporations are
no longer in control of deciding what music we will listen to, real
talent will emerge and rise to the top, and no longer will “popular”
music be forced to the masses.

Change is already in full swing in the
music industry and it is up to the industry itself to adapt or
survive, or fail.

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**School of Journalism and Mass Communications**

**Mario Diament uses words in a variety of fashions**

**ELSARANARJONOC contributing writer**

Chance and luck played significant roles in the life of award-winning Latin American journalist Mario Diament. Diament started his career as an editor and journalist while teaching in Mexico, where he won the 2004 Curtain Up Award for best new work and the 2004 World Theatre Award for his play "Blind Date." His ability to teach and communicate is evident in his teaching at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, where he currently teaches a master’s class in Spanish, as well as journalism writing and editing courses.

"I became a professor by chance," Diament said. "I was invited to do research on the Spanish media in the United States for nine months. When we were done they invited me to stay and teach. In a way I was already a teacher as an editor." During a workshop, where Diament was one of three professors teaching other Latin American journalists how to be a "stronger journalist," Diament’s best friend and colleague, Mercedes Vigón, saw his ability to teach.

"He was able to identify and work with them at the same time without making it difficult to understand," Vigón said. "I always thought it was amazing how he created something with so much intellect from one simple event!"

Advertising writer Stik-Jazyme Hindu said Diament is "not the norm." "He teaches in an open form," Hindu said. "He gives direction after the assignment is due because he wants to see where we will go with it."

That same randomness helped Diament frame a book. After spending a weekend teaching in Mexico, Diament was changing planes in Texas. Between flights, he moved to a quieter area of the airport to read a book. When he went back to the gate, he was surprised to find his plane left an hour earlier and was stranded.

From this experience, Diament wrote a book, "Martin Eidam," the story about a man who finds himself in a place where no one knows who he is. Realizing he could be anyone he wants to be and decides to change his destiny, "[Diament] has a fun sense of humor," Vigón said.

Just like his plays and books, Diament has traveled around the world. He became a correspondent in Israel and Egypt for an Argentine newspaper during the Yom Kippur War in 1973. During that year, he interviewed a Bedouin, a nomadic Arab of the desert, in Israel and found it interesting that stealing a wife carries a lesser punishment than stealing a camel.

Diament also had his coffee read, a Middle East custom of telling your future.

"They said I was going to have money, lots of money, but I don't see it," he said. "Maybe it's later in my future." His interest in journalism began in his home country of Argentina. His father used to read him newspaper stories about exotic places.

"It is a great profession because you get paid to travel and write about what you see," Diament said.

At only 16 years old, he was published by chance in the newspaper, on the anniversary of the death of American composer and pianist George Gershwin and Diament wrote a story the paper published. Writing never came natural to him, said, but being an avid reader helped.

"Those of us who have to work harder to become better writers become better because the drive is there," Diament said.

A monthly Argentine magazine once asked Diament to interview Jorge Luis Borges, an Argentine writer. The interview lasted more than four hours. Borges was very pleased because, being blind, he had little interaction with other people. The encounter brought Diament to write the play "Blind Date," which won the 2004 Curtain Up Award for best new work.

Diament is married to Simone Diament, who translates his plays to English and has been doing so for most of their 30-year marriage. "It’s challenging and wonderful to bring his characters to life into English," Simone said. "The wonderful part about it is I know exactly what he means" when she translates something funny in Spanish to be just as funny in English.

Diament considers himself first a writer. "Playwriting, journalism and teaching are for me like communicating vessels, feeding each other, and complementing each other," he said.

"I will keep being a journalist and playwrighting for as long as I can."

This story is a class project from Professor FredBlevens' Advanced News Writing course, JHU 3300.

**TASHEIKAWETHERSPOONG contributing writer**

For those who are eagerly awaiting the opening of the student lounge promised to Biovarne Bay Campus students in January, your wait is being postponed.

Greg Olson, senior director of the Wolfe University Center and Student Affairs, said the project is delayed and is currently in the pre-construction phase at this time.

"Construction has not started, only partial interior demolition of the footprint of the project has occurred," Olson wrote in an email to The Beacon. "A date of completion has not been issued." The delay is because the kitchen needs to be gutted out and the floor needs to be redone, said Christin "Cici" Battle, president of the Student Government Council at BBC. "It's a problem that they didn't know before, but there will still be a student lounge," said Battle.

Back in January it was determined that the former cafeteria on the second floor in the Wolfe Center would serve as a multipurpose room that clubs and organizations could hold meetings at and students could lounge and do homework in between classes. Students could bring games and consoles to hook up to TVs. Battle was even pushing to include a pool table and foosball table in the lounge once construction was completed.

Currently, there is no formal student lounge for BBC students. Not since seven or eight years ago when the student life office was a game room has the BBC had a student lounge. But because the old lounge was revenue based and didn’t make money, it was closed down.

Nevertheless, Battle assures that the project is not cancelled. "Construction is expected to start at the end of fall semester and will be completed by the end of spring semester," said Battle. Details about the cost of the project and construction are not known.

Sylvia Berenguer, the facilities manager in charge of construction was unavailable for comment.

**Brazil**

**Police dismantle human-trafficking ring**

Federal police claim to have dismantled and arrested 12 people involved with an international human-smuggling ring that provided fake passports to Brazilians wanting to migrate illegally to the United States.

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**Cuba**

**Fidel says happy with direction of Cuba**

Fidel Castro, in his most explicit remarks to date, recently declared his content with the direction Cuba is taking under the leadership of Raúl, mostly attributed to the country’s sweeping economic changes.

**Mexico**

**11 alleged gang members by Mexican troops**

A shootout between Mexican soldiers and drug-cartel gunmen near the border with Texas killed 11 alleged gang members and prompted the U.S. to reinforce security at international crossings, officials said.

Though not cancelled, planned lounge still pending