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VISITING CAPITOL HILL
SGC-BBC goes to Washington

LOTTO LUNACY
Florida's gambling hypocrisy

LATIN FLAVOR
Art fest showcases trends

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Baseball losing streak at 5

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WORK IN PROGRESS



GAUDREY PUECHEVY/THE BEACON

CONSTRUCTION DELAYS: Construction equipment sits unused in the damaged parking structure at the Engineering Center on Flagler Street. Damage from Hurricane Wilma has gone unfixed despite complaints by students. For more photos, go to FIUSM.com.

Engineering Center still in disrepair

EDUARDO MORALES
Contributing Writer

Three years ago, Hurricane Wilma struck Florida with the strength of a category three storm. Though most of FIU escaped damage, the Center for Engineering and Applied Sciences building was not so lucky. Located just a mile down Flagler Street from University Park,

damage from the hurricane is not very subtle.

"It looks horrible from the outside," said freshman Andres Delgado, a computer engineering major.

From the moment students walk in, they'll notice a non-existent ceiling over the faculty parking lot, which isn't open for use.

"[The parking lot] has been

like that since I began working here," said Marcelo Marcelli, CEAS building's cook who has worked at CEAS for over a year. "Somebody told me it's closed for protection. The fire department said it's not safe to park down there."

Elevator buttons are duct-taped to walls, the paint throughout the hallways is fading, damaged billiard tables remain and

the Panther Pit still does not accept the widely used Panther Card.

"If it's going to be an engineering center, it should look the part," said freshman Christopher Roath.

When *The Beacon* first reported the state of CEAS in November 2007, Marcelli said

ENGINEERING, page 2

MULTICULTURAL GREEK COUNCIL

Unity among Greeks becomes reality

ASHLEY ARTILLES
Staff Writer

Feeling their needs were not being met by mainstream Greek councils, minority Greeks set themselves apart, creating the Multicultural Greek Council.

"Given the nature of the various multicultural organizations, we all decided that the name, Multicultural Greek Council, would best describe us," said Shirley Armenteros, president of MGC.

MGC, created in January 2008, is comprised of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity Inc, Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Fraternity Inc, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity Inc, Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc and Delta Phi Omega Sorority Inc.

itself apart from other governing councils because of a strong sense of culture and tradition, which influence how each organization functions.

"By starting MGC, which my organization has been working on for a while, our

“We are now in a position that will allow us to take the next step and unify all the Greeks on campus ... now we are united and ready to create a legacy for MGC.”

needs are now being met. Since we do not follow formal recruitment and other mainstream ways, we need a council to benefit us, understand us and be able to promote our organizations accordingly," said Stephanie Wesseling,

secretary of MGC.

Greeks in the council do not participate in the traditional Greek "Rush Week" nor the week-long recruitment process that many are familiar with. MGC organizations recruit differently.

New member intake is done at the discretion of the chapter and/or colony.

MGC's main goals this semester are establishing a name for themselves through programming events, and educating the Greek community

and University about the new council.

MGC will also work toward "establishing a philanthropy where we can partner with, and make a difference in people's lives. It will most likely be the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, but it is still to be announced," Armenteros said.

MGC plans to host three events this semester in order to inform students about the council, obtain Greek support through fundraisers on campus and further integrate the involved councils through improved communication.

"We are now in a position that will allow us to take the next step and unify all the Greeks on campus. In the past, the minority Greeks were

GREEKS, page 2

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Amateur club to operate ham radios

NADIA KIJANKA
Staff Writer

FIU engineering students plan to revive their generation's interest in amateur radio. The Amateur Radio Club is scheduled to begin operating amateur radios, or "ham" radios, and licensing their members as operators within the semester.

"One goal we [have] is to help people who are new to the hobby get their licenses and with that, they will be able to talk to anyone. Amateur radio in itself is its own kind of decentralized network. It allows people who have never met before to communicate," said Tom Morris, club president.

Merrit Burrus, vice president of the club, remembers being immersed in the world of technology at a young age, an experience which inspired him to enter his current career path. He hopes the Amateur Radio Club will be able to do the same for students involved.

"As a child I teathed on phone cords. In kindergarten I did a science project on series versus parallel circuits. It really grew from there," Burrus said. "There's a whole world of technology not many people know about, so my goal is to see other people get into amateur radio. I want others to have as much fun and get as interested in it as I did."

Amateur radio began as a recreational hobby popularized in the early 20th century, using electronics and radio to communicate. Unlike commercial radios and broadcasts, amateur radio was invented to provide a reliable mode of communication for fun and also to assist communities in times of emergencies and distress, such as after natural disasters.

One of the main goals of the club is for engineering students to have a chance to apply the skills they learn in their classrooms to real life.

"We want the club to provide technical assistance for people who are interested in building their own projects," Morris said. "Engineering students don't necessarily learn all the particular lessons for building a project, such as how to solder. We'd like to help them out with that."

Along with acquainting students with the operation of ham radios,

RADIO CLUB, page 2

NEWSFLASH

FIU partnership receives \$2.4 million check

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen presented a \$2.4 million check to the Western Hemisphere Information Exchange (WHIX) Program earlier this week.

The WHIX program is a partnership between the Applied Research Center at FIU, U.S. Southern Command and the Department of the Army to facilitate information exchange in the Western Hemisphere by using renewable energy and environmental technologies.

The partnership, which FIU has been involved in for four years, has produced solar-powered water purification systems to be used in El Salvador, and is working on micro-hydro turbines to be installed in Peru by May.

SAGE fundraising reception and silent auction

A fundraising event for scholarships for international and transfer students will be held on April 11 at the Biscayne Bay Campus. The fifth annual Scholarships Awarding Global Excellence event will feature a silent auction, grand prize raffle drawing, live entertainment, hors d'oeuvres and give-aways.

The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom. Tickets are available at MPAS – BBC, WUC 253 and MPAS – UP, GC 216 for \$10 for students, and \$30 for all others.

RSVP at 305-919-5817 or email sawyersd@fiu.edu.

New Board of Trustees member appointed

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist appointed Cesar Alvarez to the FIU Board of Trustees earlier this month.

Alvarez has served as CEO Greenburg Traurig LLP, an international law firm, for 11 years. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors for the FIU Foundation and chaired the College of Law's Advisory Board.

-Compiled by Christina Veiga

Months later, Engineering Center still needs repairs

ENGINEERING, page 1

no gas line had been connected in his restaurant for a year. Five months later, "It's looking the same," he said.

While the physicality of the building might not be up to par for most of its 2,000 students, the campus is still active with events catered toward them, their studies and their futures.

"We use a great amount of resources to get the word out about the Career Services offices, so no one graduates without knowing it's there," said Lenroy Jones, director of Career Services.

The Beacon previously reported Career Services offices had been vacant for a year. In March 2008, faculty members stated the office was only in use for a select few days during the year, but a bulletin on the office's door states that counselors are there all week long.

Aside from Career Services, the CEAS campus receives attention in other areas. A town hall meeting

was held in the building on January 22, 2008, which discussed career management. Companies such as IBM and General Electric came to interview students and enroll them into their programs. While the Career Fair does not come over to the campus, Jones believes that the students there have already organized their futures, rendering the event unnecessary.

It may be a good thing for future employers to not visit CEAS.

"As a future employer, I would have a bad taste walking into those doors," said Student Government Council-UP Vice President and CEAS student Arthur "AJ" Meyer.

Jones seems to have heard differently, however

"I took a company from Wall Street there for the first time two years ago, I didn't think twice, and this is a multibillion dollar company," Jones said. "It was well attended. They thought, 'This is awesome.'"

Appearance isn't the only problem at CEAS.

"People park in meters all the time or illegally in handicapped spots and never get ticketed," Meyer said.

While security is available at CEAS, Meyer states that "there's no presence."

Public Safety did not return repeated requests for comment by the time of publication.

But there may be signs of hope for the neglected campus.

Painters recently filled the hallways in CEAS, covering the walls with a new coat of paint. There is also construction on the fourth floor of the building.

Facilities management did not respond to questions regarding the nature of the construction, or what other projects may be in the works by the time of publication.

"I understand that they may not have the resources that they need," Meyers said, "but something needs to be done."

Vish Prasad, executive dean of CEAS, refused to comment for this story.

Club beneficial for community

RADIO CLUB, page 1

club officers plan to hold hands-on seminars and workshops on concepts such as soldering, radio selection and usage to help students learn more about the electronic aspects of the hobby.

Morris and Burrus believe the Amateur Radio Club will also provide a service to FIU and the surrounding community through this alternative mode of communication.

The National Hurricane and

Weather Service at University Park and Primera Casa both use ham radios as a reliable mode of communication in the incident of a severe storm or hurricane. Familiarizing students with the equipment is one benefit officers say will result from the club.

"Having young operators either living in the dorms, or out in the community can only help when an emergency arises," Burrus said.

Once the club starts operating, the officers are positive they will find a stimulating net-

work to communicate with.

"Every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. there are nets, which is basically when people man repeaters and take check ins for hams, something that allows them to practice a good operating procedure," Burrus said.

The club meets every other Friday in the Panther Pit at 8 p.m. at the engineering center.

A meeting will be held this week.

For more information, visit www.fiu.edu/~soc and search the club directory.



CHRIS NECUZE/THE BEACON

LATE NIGHT STROLL: Two fire trucks and police cruisers were on scene Tuesday night after a fire alarm and sprinklers caused the evacuation of

Malfunction sets off sprinklers, confusion

LEONCIO ALVAREZ
Copy Chief

The Housing Quad seemed to be hosting a very successful party Tuesday night as an abundance of students were seen outside their rooms. These students, however, were far from celebrating.

At 11 p.m. a problem in mechanical room 230 of Lakeview South supposedly set off the sprinklers throughout the second floor, causing Resident Assistants to evacuate students and to halt entrance into the building, according to Josphat Kosker, a desk assistant at Lakeview.

Some students, however, did not know whether they were experiencing a drill or an actual fire.

"Every time a fire drill happens, they don't tell us beforehand, so I thought this was one, too," said

displaced student Pedro Gavillan. "I have been out here for about an hour and 20 minutes and the officers won't give us any information."

The majority of the residents seemed confused and unhappy. Personal belongings seemed a top worry for most.

"I know the second floor is very wet – the Honors College floor," said Giovana Charite, another exiled student.

Public Safety and Media Relations could not release any information about the incident at the time and said none could be released until Thursday morning.

Two fire trucks were on the scene, along with various Public Safety officers. Firefighters were seen packing up and ready to leave at around 12 a.m. More information will be available at fiusm.com as it becomes available.

MGC only to improve with time

GREEKS, page 1

spread out within other councils, however, now we are united and ready to create a legacy for MGC," said Victor Penedo, vice president of MGC.

Although the council is closed for expansion this year,

members are focusing on paving the ground for future growth.

Armenteros has a vision of the council over the next 10 years.

"I see MGC much larger and stronger with exciting programming that excludes no one. We will have an established phi-

lanthropy as a council and the highest overall GPA," he said.

For more information, visit the Campus Life office or the council's soon-to-be added Web site: www.fiu.edu/~greeks.

Ashley Artilles can be reached at Ashley.Artilles@fiusm.com

THE BEACON
Visit FIUSM.com
GO ONLINE TO SEE
SGA NOTES
MORE STORIES

CORRECTIONS
In the issue dated March 26, 2008, the story titled "Candidates barred from UP elections" incorrectly stated candidates campaigned a year in advance. The candidates began campaigning a week in advance.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

THE BEACON 

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INFORMATION

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SGC-BBC lobbies for education on Capitol Hill

JULIA CARDENUTO
Contributing Writer

FIU students attended a conference in Washington, D.C. and had the opportunity to discuss and act on current legislative issues impacting access and development of higher education.

Ten students and one graduate assistant from FIU were in Washington, D.C. from March 15 through March 18. A total of 400 students from across the country were gathered for the United States Student Association Legislative Conference at L'Enfant Plaza Hotel.

The trip was funded by the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus' travel budget and it was the second time they took such a large group to the conference.

The students listened to speakers and participated in workshops and forums where they learned how to deal with different issues related to higher education. They also had the chance to visit Capitol Hill to lobby for their concerns directly to Congress.

"We learned about different issues pertaining [to] higher education, how to approach congressmen and women and educate students

about these issues and how to get students more active in politics," said SGC-BBC President Katiana Saintable.

Among the issues mentioned were the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which is supposed to strengthen the resources of universities and colleges to provide financial assistance to students; the "Gear Up" program, which encourages college students to continue their education and go on to higher education institutes and the 2009 fiscal year budget.

There were no concrete results about the 2009 budget but it is important to know that members of Congress understand the issues and are committed to them, said Cassandra Andrade, SGC-BBC vice president.

Andrade placed great emphasis on the Access to the Economic Stability, Affordability and Power (ASAP). She said that a major concern is the instability of government funds for education.

"The government gives and takes money, there is no stable money. We understand that," Andrade said. "However, students are concerned that they can't pay for education and are already deep

STICKY FINGERS



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

RAW DOUGH: Mario Rodriguez samples cookie dough batter while touring the School of Hospitality Management building with the Student Affairs Graduate Association on March 26.

in debt with loans. Because of these kinds of issues, it is important that the federal government looks into the funding programs for students and try to make them more stable."

Since Congress was in recess, the students talked to committee and staff members. FIU students met with staff serving Sen. Mel Martinez and Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart - both Florida representatives - and made important contributions to education reforms.

"It is better to meet with staffers, they are young so we can relate better to them. They were very helpful," Saintable said. "The staff members research and

work directly with the issues and then tell congressmen and women about these issues and how to approach them."

The USSA Legislative Conference meets every March before and during the National Student Lobby Day on Capitol Hill.

Kenasha Paul, SGC-BBC director of legislative affairs, said she found the conference interesting and educational.

"I sharpened my lobbying skills, having the opportunity to talk to the Senator Mel Martinez and Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart's desk about issues that affect our state and our education," Paul said.

FIU students went through an application process in order to go to the trip. Saintable said SGC-BBC chose people they thought would directly benefit from the experience. They were looking for students who would be able to enjoy the opportunity, learn the information and make good use of it by bringing it forth to the student body.

Andrade said most students who attended are prospective student government members. However, there were different programs for different interests and students from various organizations are strongly encouraged to go.

"This is not something

that only the student government does. A lot of organizations can benefit from attending this conference," Andrade said.

The USSA Web site has information about issues that affect students. Students can get involved at www.usstudents.org.

Saintable said the trip was a great opportunity.

"It was a lot of fun and very educational. It is empowering to know that I am a voter, I am a student, I am a citizen and I am privileged to have the right to walk into the Senate and say, 'this is what we need, this is why we voted for you,' and see that we can make a difference," Saintable said.

Fat Joe, Mario to headline Spring Fling concert

ANA PEREZ
BBC Life! Editor

The week after Spring Break is known to be one of the toughest weeks for students, but Biscayne Bay Campus' Student Programming Council came to the rescue by hosting Spring Fling, a week filled with an array of entertaining events.

Events included a throwback movie night on Tuesday, comedy show on Wednesday, "The Def Jam" Party on Thursday and various other activities each day throughout the week.

On Friday, March 28, SPC will hold the Spring Fling Concert, its end-of-the-year blowout celebration to top the week off, at 8 p.m. in the Hospitality Management Patio.

Featured artists include rapper Fat Joe, singer of "I Won't Tell," and Mario, singer of hit singles "How Do I Breathe" and "Crying Out for Me."

and psychology. "It's for students to get the stress out before finals and its something fun to do after spring break."

SPC has been planning and

scheduled on Good Friday, so attendance was low.

This year, however, Dawson said SPC is anticipating a larger turnout.

and business management major, is planning to attend.

"I'm really excited because two big artists are coming to the school," David said. "I've never really been to a big concert before."

Other students, such as Orane Carney, are going to the concert to mix and mingle.

"Besides having to work the event, I figure I might as well scoop up some of Mario's female fans," said Carney, a junior majoring in advertising.

Whatever the case, Dawson said anybody who comes out should expect to have a good time.

Student tickets will be \$10 and are on sale March 28.

General admission costs \$15 the day of the event for nonstu-



Andre Dawson, Spring Fling chairperson

We're going to promote to different colleges in Florida and we did a promotion on WEDR-FM 99 Jamz earlier so hopefully we have a big turnout. We want students to come out and support.

Nehemi, Crossover and other local artists will also perform.

Andre Dawson, Spring Fling chair, hopes that students will enjoy the event.

"We want to go out with a big bang," said Dawson, a senior with a double major in biology

working on the event since last year.

"We go through their managers and if we meet their prices and no one else has booked them, we go through a contract," Dawson said.

Last year, the concert was

"We're going to promote to different colleges in Florida and we did a promotion on WEDR-FM 99 Jamz earlier so hopefully we have a big turnout. We want students to come out and support," Dawson said.

Jasmine Davis, a sophomore

A LOSING TICKET

State contradicts policy on gambling

ERIC M. FELDMAN
Asst. Opinion Editor

"The choice is yours." That's the slogan of the new Florida Lottery setup that allows players to "choose" how much their jackpot will be by picking

better served buying three separate lotto tickets, thus increasing their chances of victory to three-in-23 million.

Even more egregious in this situation than how unappealing this offer is – after all, players don't have to spend the extra money, and personal choice is always

"Las Vegas-style" were vast. The Seminole Hard Rock's new slot machines are already being challenged in court by members of Florida's legislature, according to *The Miami Herald* on March 13.

"I'm not against the Lotto, it's just the epitome of irony that the same state that decries gambling engages itself in the practice, using the argument that the money will go to education in order to legitimize this fact," Joe Donzelli, Lee County School District spokesman told the (Ft. Meyers) *News-Press* on March 2. "There's a huge misnomer when it comes to the effect the Florida Lottery has on education."

According to Donzelli, while the district is grateful for any extra money, the stipend it receives from the

Lotto is currently enough to operate the schools for three days. Just under nine percent of players in the first week of the new lotto gimmick purchased one of the add-ons, which

Lottery officials expect to increase sales by at least 25 percent, according to the *Sun-Sentinel*.

Based on the amount of publicity this change was given, it would seem that the number of people doling out the extra cash will only decline after the expense becomes too great, leading one to believe that any impact on revenue had by it will be exploitation of already highly taxed Floridians.

“ This glorified scam, a ploy by a desperately cash-strapped state to cover budget deficits, is more likely to leave citizens with jack squat than a jackpot. ”

how much they will spend on each ticket.

Here's how it works: If you spend \$2 on a ticket, instead of the default \$1, you will get an extra \$10 million if you win. A \$3 purchase will increase the current jackpot by \$25 million if it is your six numbers drawn.

This glorified scam, a ploy by a desperately cash-strapped state to cover budget deficits, is more likely to leave citizens with jack squat than a jackpot.

This new change to the Florida Lottery not only makes little sense, but it highlights the hypocrisy of a state government with a long history of adversity toward gambling.

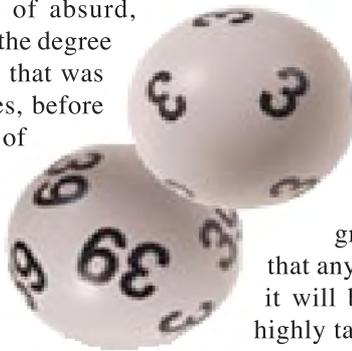
Even \$3 million, the minimum Lotto base jackpot, would go a long way in helping any Floridian's financial problems. Adding on extra bucks to your ticket doesn't give you any better of a chance of winning; your odds are about one-in-23 million, according to a March 13 *Sun-Sentinel* column. Anyone who is eager enough to spend \$24 per month on the Lotto's twice-a-week drawings by purchasing the upgrades would be

good – is how quickly Florida's government will turn to gambling to solve its money woes, given its track record for preventing gambling from getting a foothold in the state through legal blockades and even arrests.

In 2006, Gale Fontaine, an adult arcade operator, was arrested by the Broward Sheriff's Office for operating video slot machines that rewarded a mostly elderly clientele gambling small amounts of money with prizes such as gift certificates to Publix Supermarket.

The trial consisted of absurd, petty arguments such as the degree of "application of skill" that was involved in the machines, before Fontaine was acquitted of all charges, in effect legalizing this type of adult arcade.

The legal hurdles that both paramutuel facilities such as race-tracks and jai-alai facilities, and even the Seminole Hard Rock Casino had to jump in order to install slot machines designated as



Eric M. Feldman can be reached at eric.feldman@fiusm.com

CAMPUS TALK

What are your views on the Florida Lottery?



David Shor
Senior

"I dislike the lottery because it is a tax on the stupid."



Ivanka Crespo
Junior

"As an education major, I want my future students to have the opportunity to go to college provided by the lotto funds."



Javier Nahmias
Freshman

"I love it because it pays for my education."

THE SOAPBOX:

An Op-Ed Column

Next Olympics venue legitimizes China's human rights violations



Nathan Katz, Ph. D
Special to The Beacon

In 1936 the Olympic Games were opened by Adolph Hitler in Berlin. Despite global concern about Nazi racist policies, 49 nations participated. Hitler saw the Olympics as an opportunity to demonstrate the superiority of the so-called Aryan race, but the hero of the day was African-American Jesse Owens, who won four gold medals and for the moment discredited Nazi racism. The U.S. Olympic Committee, however, acceded to Nazi demands that no Jews be allowed on the American team.

The 2008 Olympics will be held this August in Beijing, where the government sees the Games as confirmation of China's enhanced economic, political and moral

standing. There is increasing concern around the world that the Olympics will serve to legitimate Chinese human rights abuses and its support for genocidal regimes in the Sudan, Iran and Burma.

The parallels are clear.

In March, 1959, the people of Tibet rose up against the Chinese occupation of their country, which the People's Liberation Army had invaded and conquered in 1951. More than a hundred thousand Tibetans, led by the Dalai Lama, fled into exile in India, and since then Chinese rule has uprooted Tibetan culture. Today, there are more ethnic Han Chinese in Tibet than there are Tibetans.

The leader of Tibet, the Dalai Lama, one of the most respected and beloved figures in the world, is no longer young, and Tibetans know that without his presence, their dream of independence, or at least meaningful autonomy, may not live beyond him.

This combination of factors – the interna-

tional spotlight on Beijing, the 50th anniversary of the Tibetan national uprising, and the advancing age of Tibet's leader – has resulted in worldwide protests and calls for a boycott of the Beijing Olympics.

We at FIU know the Dalai Lama. He has visited us twice, leaving his indelible stamp of integrity and compassion on all of us. Generous of spirit as always, he rejects a boycott. He says that the Chinese people deserve to feel proud of their country and that hosting the Olympics means a great deal to ordinary Chinese, with whom he has no quarrel.

In a style reminiscent of his mentor, Mahatma Gandhi, he says that if the violence that is spreading across Tibet today continues, he will resign from public life.

What he told me 25 years ago is even more true today. I asked whether he thought Tibetan freedom was a real possibility, and he said, "So long as human determination is there, things will change. Inside Tibet,

nationalism is even stronger than among those in exile. Quite remarkably, the Tibetan people's determination is stronger than the Dalai Lama's determination.

The real factor that makes for this determination is the Chinese.

The Chinese made the Tibetans tough and determined. Moreover, they brought out the greatness of Tibetan determination, will power and unity. So from that point of view, we must be grateful to the Chinese."

A boycott of the Olympics is unlikely, but the world's attention needs to focus not only on the athletic competition and the Olympic spectacle, but on Chinese policies about human rights, religious freedom, and their long and brutal suppression of the Tibetan people.

Nathan Katz, Ph.D. is a professor of religious studies

Approaching Arts

Fair unites museums in celebrating Latin expression

JADE LEONART
Staff Writer

Art aficionados unite: the Merrill Lynch *arteaméricas* is coming to Miami for the sixth consecutive year. *Arteaméricas*, an art fair celebrating the latest trends in Latin American art, will be at the Miami Beach Convention Center from March 28 to March 31.

Featured at the event will be paintings, sculptures and multimedia from emerging Latin American artists as well as old favorites. The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum is participating in the art fair.

"Seventy-eight galleries from 14 countries will exhibit the work of the region's 400 great masters, contemporary artists and young talents," said Carolina Ledezma,

arteaméricas spokesperson.

Some of the 14 countries represented at the fair include Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, the United States and Venezuela. This year, among the exhibitions on display is Trends, which comments on contemporary times through the work of 20 Miami-based artists.

"Trends is a curatorial project for Merrill Lynch *arteaméricas* that was born since the first edition of the fair six years ago. Every year, I propose the latest generation in Post Contemporary Art in video, installation, performance, digital photography, contemporary sculpture and objectual art," said Milagros Bello, curator of Trends.

Juan-Si, one of the artists participating in Trends, will

give a special performance at the opening reception and on Saturday night.

The Museum of Contemporary Art of North Miami will present another exhibition which will feature marionette sculptures made from discarded objects by Miami artist Pablo Cano. MOCA will also present its photographic advertising campaign, Join Us!

Two panel discussions will take place every day at *arteaméricas*. Some guest speakers include art critic and curator Julia Pherzberg, who will discuss Venezuelan artist Nela Ochoa. Maggy Cuesta, the dean of New World School of the Arts, will speak about social responsibility in graphic design on March 28.

Six museums will be supporting *arteaméricas*, includ-

ing MOCA, Bass Museum of Art, Lowe Art Museum, California's Museum of Latin American Art and FIU's own Frost Art Museum.

"All of the Miami museums are invited to participate in the fair and represent their organization at the fair, as a way of promoting culture in Miami-Dade County," said Ailyn Mendoza, Frost Art Museum's marketing and communications assistant.

"With our participation at the fair, we are hoping to introduce the fair's audience to all the great programs that we have at the Frost Museum," Mendoza said.

Merrill Lynch *arteaméricas* will run March 28-31, from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Sunday, March 30, when it closes at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.arteamericas.com.



Carolina Antoniadis, Acrilico, Subre tela, 2007



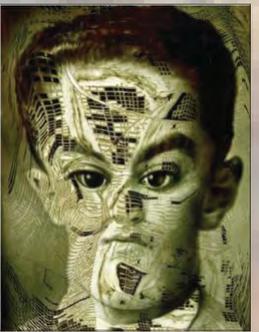
Rochi Llana, "Captain Who?", mixed media on canvas, 2007.



Amber Pattern, 2007, oil and encaustic on canvas



Marcelo Wong. Escultura, Piedra, Madera y metal



Rafael Wu, "Avance" Tecnica mixta, 2006.



Benjamin Dominguez, "variaciones sobre on tema musical", 2007

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARTEAMERICAS.COM

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WEEKEND RUNDOWN

• FRIDAY • MARCH 28

What: Poison the Well
Where: Culture Room
3045 N. Federal Hwy,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33306
When: 7:30 p.m.
How Much: \$12

What: Requiem Fridays
Where: Club X-It
219 N. 21st Ave.,
Hollywood, FL 33020
When: 8 p.m.
How Much: \$10 to \$20

What: 30th annual Everglades
Bluegrass Festival
Where: Ives Estates Optimist Club
1511 N.E. 207th St.,
Aventura, FL 33179
When: 5 p.m.
How Much: \$20 to \$25

• SATURDAY • MARCH 29

What: Jonathan Peter's Pool
Party
Where: The Shelborne Beach
Resort
1801 Collins Ave.,
Miami Beach, FL 33139
When: 12 p.m.
How Much: \$40

What: Jockstarzz Fashion Show
Where: Ocean Drive
Between Eighth and Ninth Street
on Ocean Drive
When: 10 p.m.
How Much: Varies

What: Speed Jam 2008
Where: Homestead Miami
Speedway
One Speedway Blvd.,
Homestead, FL 33035
When: 9 a.m.
How Much: \$30 or more

• SUNDAY • MARCH 30

What: Deering Seafood Festival
Where: Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 S.W. 72 Ave.,
Perrine, FL 33157
When: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
How Much: \$15

What: Miami Vintage Clothing
& Accessories Show and Sale
Where: Women's Club of
Coconut Grove
2985 S. Bayshore Drive
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
When: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
How Much: \$5

What: Women and Culture
Festival
Where: North Beach Bandshell
7275 Collins Ave.,
Miami Beach, FL 33141
When: Daily
How Much: \$10

- Compiled by *Kassandra Pool*

Promising entertainment in April



With the summer movie season coming up, the next few months are sure to have their fair share of blockbuster comedies and action movies. April should provide a nice transition into that period, with a variety of funny and serious movies.

LEATHERHEADS (APRIL 4)

Back before multimillion dollar contracts made protecting the players the most important part of the game, football was a far more brutal sport than the one currently enjoyed by fans.

It is this game that is the basis for director and star George Clooney's new romantic comedy, "Leatherheads." Taking place in the 1920s, "Leatherheads" follows a team that is trying to move from empty fields to packed stands with the help of a hotshot war hero, played by Jim Krasinski.

While it is a romantic comedy, with both Clooney and Krasinski fighting for the affection of Renée Zellweger, "Leatherheads" is

sure to have enough physical comedy and slapstick humor to cut through the romance for the guys in the audience.

STREET KINGS (APRIL 11)

Starring Academy Award-winning actor Forrest Whitaker, an actor best known for playing a doctor with a limp (Hugh Laurie) and an actor who has made a career with exactly one emotion (Keanu Reeves), "Street Kings" is one of the more highly anticipated crime dramas of the year.

Reeves plays a detective whose partner was murdered and spends much of the film trying to wade his way through the streets to find the killer while working his way around the red tape of the police department.

With a big cast, this should be one of the more entertaining movies of the month.

FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (APRIL 18)

With everything else he has touched turning to comedic gold, it is hard to imagine Judd Apatow's upcoming film, written by and starring Jason Segel of "How I Met Your Mother" fame, not continuing in that vein.

Loosely based on his real life relationship with "Freaks & Geeks" co-star Linda

Cardellini, "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" finds Segel's character, Peter, completely lost in life after his television star girlfriend (the title character), played by Kristen Bell, dumps him out of the blue. In an attempt to get away from his life, he takes a trip to Oahu, but finds himself checked into the same hotel as Sarah and her new boyfriend.

Featuring many of the same actors of previous Apatow films, it is hard to envision this movie not being at least as popular as his older movies.

BABY MAMA (APRIL 25)

Reuniting the former "Saturday Night Live" co-stars, Amy Poehler stars as Tina Fey's surrogate after Fey, a straight laced business executive, finds out she is incapable of becoming pregnant herself.

Building on the classic comedic mold of "The Odd Couple," "Baby Mama" features Fey trying to fit Poehler's messy, unbridled lifestyle into her perfect image of a mother. Undoubtedly by the end of the film, they will be closer than ever and Fey will be a proud mother with a new lifelong friend.

Despite the clichéd storyline, Fey and Poehler's comedic chemistry on SNL should translate into an enjoyable comedy.



German farce "Underpants" comes to FIU

JOHNATHAN DAVILA
STAFF WRITER

Long deceased German playwright Carl Sternheim isn't rolling in his grave – he's probably laughing in it.

Coming this April 3-6 to the Wertheim Performing Arts Center at University Park, and April 10-13 to the Mary Anne Wolfe Theatre at the Biscayne Bay Campus, is Steve Martin's adaptation of Sternheim's controversial farce "The Underpants" – originally known in Germany as "Die Hose."

It is being performed by FIU theater majors and is being directed by Professor Stephen Neal, who is a fan of Martin's adaptation.

"I very much appreciate his work," he said.

"Underpants" revolves around the character Louise Maske and her sudden rise to fame after her underpants fell to her ankles while she is watching a parade. It was originally banned by the German government for being "immoral."

"The play was written at a time of expressionism. [It] was a lampooning of the middle-class. Now, [the farce] is about women gaining power," Neal said. "[It's about] a woman finding herself and her voice in a male dominated society," said FIU student Kat Moreno, who plays Gertrude Deuter.

The play was adapted by Martin in 2002 and originally performed in New York at the Classic Stage Company. According to Neal, Martin includes most of Sternheim's

Kat Moreno, plays Gertrude Deuter

[It's about] a woman finding herself and her voice in a male dominated society.

original dialogue – something that presents a challenge in directing the play since the dialogue, although in English, was meant for Sternheim's German audience from the 1900's. Now that the play is being brought to FIU, Neal has made it his mission to ensure a smooth transition from a German farce performed in New York to a German farce performed in Miami.

"I looked at my cast, and I helped shape their characters [in order] to make them [relevant] to a Miami audience. They have an extreme amount of talent. [It's] wonderful what they've been able to do with a German play written in 1910," Neal said.

"We've gotten good direction from him since the beginning," said Cairo Cangas, another theater theatre performing in the play, who portrays Theo Maske, Louise's husband.

Expect "Underpants" to contain fast-paced, slapstick comedy and sexual innuendo. The actors also added their own physical improvisations during rehearsals, which were then incorporated into the play's plot.

"We would just do something funny and see where [it would go]," said Dixon Gutierrez, another theater major in "Underpants,"

playing the character of Klingelhoff. With sexuality being part of the reason the play was originally banned in 1911, Neal assures the play is still safe grounds for the squeamish.

"I don't see it being controversial to a modern audience. In 1910, in Germany, to even show underwear would be a scandal. [This is a] very innocent play. It's naughty, but fun," he said.

When asked if FIU Theater would be putting on more work that pushes the envelope, Neal suggested that he believed so.

"We want to shake things up. We want to show people that theater has a function in society.

Theater makes people, think, laugh, cringe and [change]. This play will make us laugh at the way we treat women," he said.

Tickets for "Underpants" are priced at \$8 for students, alumni and senior citizens, and \$10 for the general audience.

To purchase tickets or obtain more information on the farce, call the FIU Theater box office at 305-348-3789 or visit their website at www.fiu.edu/~thedan.

"As long as [the play] somehow mirrors what is happening culturally, FIU will put it on," Moreno said.

SUN BELT BASEBALL STANDING

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Florida Atlantic	16-6	6-1	.727
Troy	16-7	5-1	.696
Louisiana-Monroe	14-6	7-2	.700
Arkansas St.	12-10	5-4	.545
Fla. International	9-16	3-3	.360
Louisiana-Lafayette	9-12	4-5	.429
New Orleans	12-8	3-5	.600
Middle Tennessee	10-7	3-5	.583
South Alabama	12-10	2-4	.545
Western Kentucky	10-9	3-6	.526
UALR	4-16	1-6	.200

*All records up to date as of March 24, 2008

SUN BELT LEADERS

HITS		DOUBLES	
Min 2.0 AB		Min 2.0 AB	
Castillo FIU	42	Miller Troy	14
McKenna FAU	39	Jernigan USA	11
Hines MT	37	Hines MT	10
RBI		HOME RUNS	
Min 2.0 AB		Min 2.0 AB	
McKenna FAU	43	McKenna, FAU	13
Jernigan USA	31	7 tied with 6 home run(s)	
Castillo FIU	30		
Vander Hey UNO	29		
TRIPLES		RUNS SCORED	
Min 2.0 AB		Min 2.0 AB	
McGonigle UNO	3	Block FAU	32
5 tied with 2 triple(s)		Kruml USA	29
		McKenna FAU	29

Despite reliever pitching five innings, Golden Panthers' offense falls short

BASEBALL, page 8

innings, and we didn't do anything to help our cause at that time," Thomas said. The Golden Panthers scored two runs in the eighth to cut the Spartan

lead to four runs.

FIU scored two runs in the eighth inning, making it a 9-7 game. However, Alvarez would launch a two-run home run to left field off of FIU senior reliever Kyle Preshong to

make it 11-7.

The home run all but sealed the win for the Spartans, the two-time defending Division II champions, as the Golden Panthers couldn't score in the bottom of the ninth inning despite

having the bases loaded.

Anthony Perez picked up the save for Tampa.

The Golden Panthers committed three errors after committing five during the previous game against Northern Colorado.

Advertisements, monetary gain drives MLB's journey to Japan

VILLARMARZO, page 8

Because those countries are nowhere near as rich as our friends in Japan.

It's no secret that the yen is more powerful than the dollar, so having their money come overseas to MLB would be the ultimate goal.

This is exactly why the A's are wearing a Pepsi patch on their sleeve, the Red Sox are wearing one for software company EMC and both teams have Ricoh clearly seen on their helmets.

Many baseball purists consider it a disgrace that the MLB is figuratively whoring itself out when it goes overseas and while that is true, it is the way the league works; everything comes down to money.

Money is why companies buy the naming rights to a team's stadium. Money is why the Yankees are tearing down arguably the most historic stadium in baseball history to build a new one and money is why the Chicago Cubs may be selling the

naming rights to Wrigley Field. Money.

It's the reality of the world we live in today and it definitely applies to sports.

The majority of team owners buy teams not because they love the team they are purchasing, but because they can turn a huge

They even went traded away their two most popular players because they demanded huge salaries.

With all that known, it's no surprise that MLB will continue to open its season every four years in Japan, even though it feels dirty, even though it feels like a fake Opening Day.

“ Many baseball purists consider it a disgrace that the MLB is figuratively whoring itself out when it goes overseas. ”

profit.

Most owners will do everything in their power to maximize profits.

We don't even have to go beyond our own backyard to see a perfect example of this.

Our very own Florida Marlins have the lowest payroll in baseball for a reason.

Maybe one day they'll try out an Opening Day in Saudi Arabia or Dubai or any other economically prosperous country.

Money makes the world go round and because there's nothing we can do to stop it, we might as well try and look past all the griminess and enjoy the game for what it is.

Play ball!



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

JUST IN TIME: First baseman Jorge Castillo attempts to tag a runner out. The senior holds a 21-game hitting streak.

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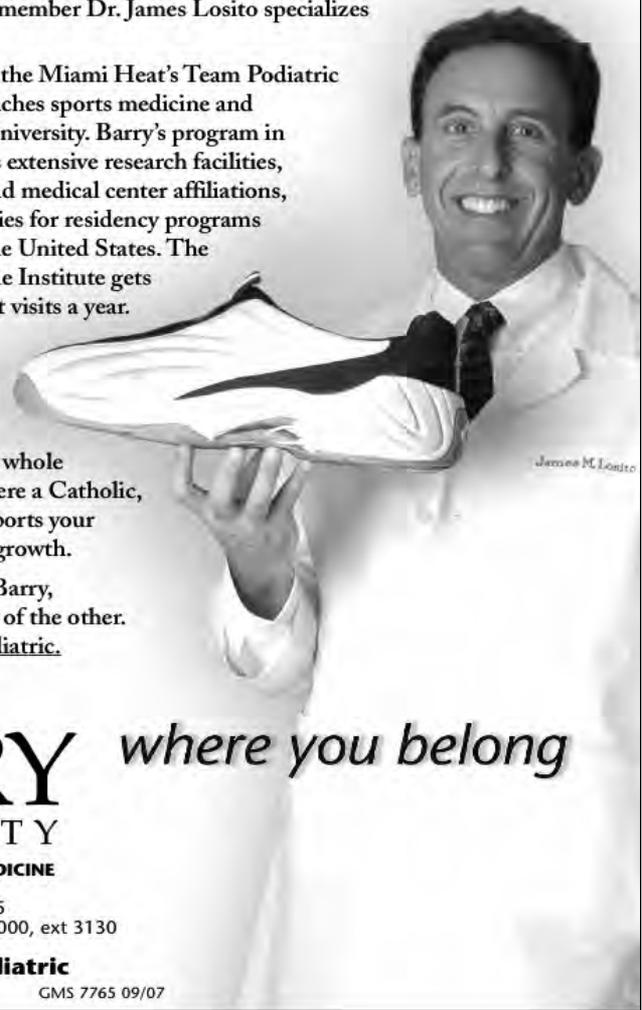
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TOUGH COMPETITION

Two-time champ pounces Golden Panthers' starting pitching

LUCA MESSINA
Staff Writer

After a winless weekend out West, the Golden Panthers could not rebound, losing to the University of Tampa Spartans 11-7 on March 24 at University Park.

The loss, coupled with four losses in a weekend tournament, extended FIU's losing streak to five games and dropped their season record to 9-17.

"We started hot and we swung the bat good at the end of the game, but we didn't do anything in the middle of the game," said coach Turtle Thomas.

Tampa starter Daniel Foltz improved to 4-0 with 5.0 innings of work.

Jorge Ramos (1-3) struggled early but was backed up by his teammates on offense. He left after just 2.1 innings and the Golden Panthers trailing 7-5.

He allowed seven runs (six earned), two walks and

recorded no strikeouts.

He also was responsible for two errors after poorly fielding a ground ball and an errant throw on a pickoff attempt.

of starter Foltz, who allowed five earned runs in the game.

In the top of the second inning, a two-run single by Tampa second

at 5-4.

Ramos relinquished the lead due to back-to-back one-out RBI doubles by Tampa's Steven Broschofsky and catcher

“**Jorge Ramos**, starting pitcher

...it was just kind of a rough day. It feels good to be starting, but right now I'm not where I want to be.

"I felt good; it was just kind of a rough day," Ramos said.

Ramos is now the mid-week starter in the rotation and even though he enjoys being a starter, it is not an easy transition for the sophomore pitcher.

"It feels good to be starting, but right now I'm not where I want to be," he said.

After trailing 2-0 midway through the first inning, FIU responded with two runs of its own off

baseman Jesus Barroso put the Spartans up once again 4-2.

The Golden Panthers would score three more runs in the bottom half of the second before being shutout for the next five innings.

Senior Corey Lozano had an RBI single to center, junior Ryan Molluca had an RBI groundout and sophomore Tyler Townsend also had an RBI single to give FIU its first and only lead

Leo Alvarez.

Ramos would allow three more runs in the top of the third before senior James Lajiness relieved him with FIU trailing 7-5.

Lajiness allowed six hits, two runs (one earned) in 5.1 innings of relief and left FIU in a 9-5 deficit.

"Many games are won in college baseball in the fourth, fifth and sixth



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

CROSSING PATHS: Second baseman Corey Lozano attempts to complete a double play. FIU has lost five consecutive games.

BASEBALL NOTEBOOK

Coach revisits No. 1 team he helped built

LUCA MESSINA
Staff Writer

Head Coach Turtle Thomas took his 9-12 squad out to Tempe, Arizona for the Bob Schaefer Memorial Tournament last weekend.

For anyone who knows Turtle Thomas and his past, it was to be an intriguing trip because Arizona State University was his latest coaching stop as an assistant and recruiting coordinator.

His sharp recruiting tactics surely have contributed to the Sun Devils 19-1 record going into the tournament and the No. 1 ranking in the country.

After falling to No. 5 ranked UC-Irvine 5-2 in a nail-biter, FIU fell to ASU 10-5 and 8-4 respectively in an evening doubleheader.

The Golden Panthers finished the weekend with another close loss to unranked Northern Colorado 13-9.

"Coaching against ASU, Northern Colorado and UC-Irvine is like coaching against any of the other teams you play," said Thomas.

"Every team we play on our schedule is good and capable of beating us, so it's just another tough

game that you have to play."

When asked if the trip back to his old coaching stomping grounds was sentimental he responded, "We played hard, and we played pretty well and against ASU." Thomas said. "We came up short but we battled hard all the way through."

Coach Thomas has often believed in and has stressed the importance of playing against tough, elite competition. "It gets your hitters ready to face the types of pitchers you face in conference games and it gets your pitchers ready to face the type of hitters they face in conference games as well."

Although the four losses dropped the Golden Panthers record to 9-16, they proved that they could hang in there with some of the best in division I college baseball.

For coach Thomas, it may or may not have been sentimental playing against ASU, but he seemed to focus on the present.

The present being his young team that has shown offensive potency, but has gotten off to a slow start.

21 AND COUNTING

With his first inning single to



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

RECALLING: Head coach Turtle Thomas' team faced his old team, No. 1 Arizona State.

center field, senior Jorge Castillo extended his impressive hitting streak to 21 games. He finished the night 2-for-5 with a run scored.

UP NEXT

The Golden Panthers take their 3-3 Sun Belt Conference record to Lafayette, La to face the Rajin' Cajuns in a three-game weekend set.

ULL were preseason Sun Belt Conference favorites, but their overall record currently stands at 9-12 and they're 4-5 in Sun Belt Conference play.

Baseball Opening Day held in Japan; owners try to maximize profits



The Boston Red Sox and Oakland Athletics kicked off Opening Day of the 2008 Major League Baseball season just like America's pastime should – on another continent, while the rest of the teams are still in Spring Training.

Every four years since 2000, MLB has sent two teams to Japan to start the season.

While this goes along with MLB's philosophy of developing heavy international exposure (along with the World Baseball Classic), doing it in Japan is just plain silly.

The Japanese have practically adopted baseball as their national pastime and have seen many former Major Leaguers emerge from their professional teams.

You could argue that Japan loves baseball even more than we do in the USA.

So why go there? Well, it all comes down to dollars and cents.

Sure the Japanese send a throng of media to cover national heroes such as Ichiro Suzuki of the Seattle Mariners, Daisuke Matsuzaka of the Red Sox and Hideki Matsui of the New York Yankees.

It's not hard to imagine many in Japan owning some MLB merchandise supporting those players, but getting the Japanese (and people from other baseball-loving countries) to buy Kansas City Royals jerseys or Florida Marlins caps – basically merchandise from teams without Japanese players – would increase MLB's revenues exponentially.

So why not open the season in other baseball-loving countries like Puerto Rico, Venezuela, South Korea or the Dominican Republic?

VILLARMARZO, page 7