

THE OBSERVER

A BROWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE PUBLICATION



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Where are the Lady Seahawks?



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Check out the Sci-Tech pull-out centerspread!



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Students speak out on parking problems



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Attack on North Campus



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NEW LIBRARY ON SOUTH CAMPUS



PHOTO BY DAVID COOPER

The new library on South Campus will be available to students next semester.

BY HEATHER DULMAN
SOUTH BUREAU CHIEF

The new library at Broward Community College (BCC) South Campus will open some time before the end of this year. "Our best guess right now looks like we will be moving in sometime in December for an early January Grand Opening. However, please remember that we still have a hurricane season to get through. A bad

season could delay arrival of things like carpeting and new furniture," said Terri Justice, Dean of Academic Resources. The budget is \$11 million and includes construction and furnishing costs.

The current library opened in 1983 and the staff that works there now will be transferred to the new library.

A moving company that specializes in moving libraries will have to be hired.

"It takes a few weeks to take the books over to the new library plus the furniture," said Justice.

"We try to keep everything organized so unpacking can be done efficiently and quickly," said Chris Casper, instruction coordinator/Faculty Librarian. "It's not like moving books at your house, everything is in

■ **NEW LIBRARY**
CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

DR. HOLCOMBE APPOINTED AS INTERIM PRESIDENT

BY DONALD THOMANN
STAFF WRITER

The Broward Community College Board of Trustees held a meeting on Nov. 6, at the Willis Holcombe Downtown center, to determine who will act as interim president in the wake of Dr. Larry Calderon's resignation. The Board came to a unanimous decision, and the offer was extended to Dr. Willis Holcombe, former BCC president. Holcombe accepted it the next day, Nov. 7.

"Once I heard that Calderon resigned...I figured they were going to have to do an interim because it takes a long time to do a presidential search," said Holcombe.

"The Board will meet to set the criteria for finding... a candidate," said Levi Williams, Chair of the Board of Trustees. Once the criteria is set, the Board will meet with consultants of different corporations and firms and send letters of interest to those applicants whom they feel are best qualified for the job. Dr. Holcombe will remain interim president for "as long as it takes for the board to find a suitable candidate."

Speaking in reaction to being offered the position, Holcombe said, "I was pleased.

The college means a lot to me. It was the college where I spent the majority of my career. There are some things to be taken care of, most notably the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the faculty. There is a host of ongoing things and we have a lot...to take care of."

This all comes after disagreements between the Board and Calderon led to his sudden resignation on Oct. 25, when he announced his desire to leave during a Board of Trustees meeting. He requested that his contract be terminated by Dec. 19.

Calderon quickly, a day later in fact, was the new Vice President of Community and Governmental Affairs of Nova Southeastern University. Calderon expresses interest in staying South Florida, and this new position will allow him to do so and build on current relationships.

Calderon sat to the right of the Board during the meeting and patiently watched the process. After Levi Williams adjourned the meeting, Calderon, surrounded by his colleagues, signed some paper work. On his way out he said,

■ **HOLCOMBE**
CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

The legacy of Dr. Calderon

BY GRANT ABRAHAM
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With Dr. Larry Calderon, BCC's president of three years, now gone, the college is going through a transitional phase where the current Board of Trustees must undertake the long and tedious process of finding a new leader.

With all the controversy regarding Dr. Calderon's resignation, it is sometimes hard to remember what achievements were made during his time as president of the college.



PHOTO BY JOHNNY LOUIS

Dr. Calderon is proud of the accomplishments of the college during his tenure.

History of Calderon

Dr. Calderon had served in his previous role as President of Ventura College in California for nine years. He then moved from there to BCC's Downtown Center, where he has served the Broward community for

the past three years, until his resignation on Nov. 6.

Yet, his goal of serving the community is not yet over.

In the wake of his resignation

■ **DR. CALDERON**
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



PHOTO BY DAVID COOPER

BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME

■ **CONTINUED ON PAGE 24**

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Phi Theta Kappa Regional Conference



PHOTO BY DANIELLA DORCELLUS

South Campus' Alpha Delta Rho With their advisor, Dr. Nightingale.

BY DANIELLA DORCELLUS
CENTRAL BUREAU CHIEF

"We're bright. We're bold. We're good as gold" was the motto that many members of Phi Theta Kappa proudly chanted in this year's Regional Conference held on Nov. 10-12. Tycia Foster, International President and Carlos M. Acevedo, Division II International Vice President, informed members about the various activities of Phi Theta Kappa. The two officers provided a presentation on the Pinnacle Scholarship Award Program, the Five Star Chapter Development Program and the 89th International Convention, which will take place in Nashville, Tennessee on April 12-14 2007.

The Pinnacle Scholarship Award Program honors Phi Theta Kappa chapters and regions that have made a tremendous improvement on their recruitment and orientation tactics based on the amount of new members that are reported to Headquarters each year. The Pinnacle Program allows the student body of a given chapter to be more knowledgeable about the purpose and functions of the society as well as the benefits that it offers. Chapters may receive recognition on the local, regional and international levels. Information was soon provided about another initiative of Phi Theta Kappa.

The Five Star Development Program is similar to the Pinnacle Program because it aims at providing recognition to individual chapters based on how well they have embodied Phi Theta Kappa's mission. Perhaps the most exciting item on the agenda was the International Convention, which attracts members from all over the globe annually. Many prominent speakers such as Madeline Albright, former Secretary of State and Emmy Award-winning journalist, Cokie Roberts are often invited to this event. During the Regional Conference, there were many workshops that were coordinated to assist each chapter in implementing the four

Hallmarks, which are scholarship, fellowship, leadership and service. Emily Moorhouse, Vice President of Leadership at Central Campus, and Carrie Stevens, Co-chair of Service at North Campus hosted a workshop about the various ways to get informed, called "Equipping Yourself to Make a Difference." There were also workshops held by many other chapters. Eta Nu from St. Petersburg College hosted one entitled "Becoming a More Active Chapter." Alpha Phi Zeta and Chi Epsilon also organized a presentation called "Operation Green."

Many of BCC's chapters took home awards from the conference. Alpha Delta Rho, South Campus' chapter was chosen to host the Mini Honors Institute, which will take place in July. During this conference, there will be various workshops that will focus on the Honors Study Topic, which is *Gold, Gods, and Glory: The Global Dynamics of Power*. The group also performed a dance that was taken from Disney's *High School Musical*; a project coordinated by Veronica Malo. Dr. Nightingale, The advisor for Alpha Delta Rho, was the recipient of the Distinguished Advisor for Continuing Excellence Award. North Campus was also recognized for their various projects.

Omega Phi, North Campus' chapter received a Distinguished Chapter Award. They were also selected to represent Phi Theta Kappa as the Regional Service Chapter. Two members from the Mu Mu chapter of Central Campus said that they benefited from the conference. "Being a first-year member of Phi Theta Kappa, I was truly impressed with the many achievements and professionalism of the individual workshops and the organization as a whole," said Melissa Glasgow. Sabrina Smith also enjoyed the event. "The workshops led me to realize how unifying the organization is through cooperation of making Phi Theta Kappa better," said Smith.

Clubs serve up their best

BY RAFAEL D. VELAZQUEZ JR.
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you walked outside of Central Campus' building 19 on Nov. 8, it was easy to lose track of where you were. With country music blasting, and herds of cattle and cowboys roaming the plains, you'd think you were back in the heart of Texas.

It was BCC's annual Chili Cook-Off, and suitably in western themed décor. Many of BCC's clubs and organizations showed their support by each bringing a chili of their choice to enter the contest. Amongst the clubs there were the Business Club, Anchor Point (Graphic Design Club), The Gay Straight Alliance, the Education Club, the Kenpo (Martial Arts) Club and representatives of Bailey Hall.

The clubs were all entered in different categories of their choice to see who would take home the trophy for the best chili of that category. The Gay Straight Alliance took home first place for the vegetarian chili which was "healthy and delicious, and no animals were harmed" in the making of their chili. Most Spicy went to Bailey Hall's chili that was being served right next to their smoking cauldron. Kenpo came on top in the creativity category with their Asian chili made with chicken teriyaki, wasabi and secret Asian spices. The Education Club's homemade recipe chili came in with runner up, with its peculiar ingredients which include chocolate, beer and coffee.

"You got your cocktail with the beer, your meal with the

chili and your desert with the chocolate," said Kristina Capone, President of the Education Club.

Chili wasn't the only thing BCC was serving students. Student Life also had popcorn and sno-cone machines just in case the chili was too hot to handle.

The fun didn't stop with the music and the food. A favorite amongst students was the mechanical bull riding. One of the first brave enough to ride the bull was a cow. A student life member dressed as a cow, doing his part in the western spirit of things.

After the winners were announced, things came to an end. The cook-off was a success and students began to mosey over to their classes with full bellies and a lot of laughs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARIN FINN

Many clubs competed at Central Campus for the chili Cook-Off competition, and were surrounded by a massive audience of students awaiting free refreshments.

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Holiday Bash at the South Pole

BY HEATHER DULMAN
SOUTH BUREAU CHIEF

'Tis the Season' to be at Southern Breezeway; two activities are coming up for the students to celebrate the holidays.

Mark the date; Nov. 29 at 9 a.m., the Activity Center will be playing a back to back, all-day *The Santa Clause* and its sequel, *The Santa Clause 2*, since *The Santa Clause 3* is currently out in a theater near you.

Student Holiday Celebration hosted by Student Life on Dec. 13. Kids can take pictures with Santa Clause from 12-2 p.m. "We are going to have holiday music and eggnog will be served plus, goody bags will



PHOTO BY WILLIAM BREIM

A Christmas tree beautifully decorated for the Holiday Bash.

be distributed for the kids," said Student Life Director Rose Ortega. There are going to be kids from the Preschool over to the Breezeway to

celebrate.

SPB is kicking off Holiday Bash on Dec. 8 in the gym. At 8 p.m.-12 a.m. "We wanted to provide an evening event for students that take night classes and primary the ones who are graduating," said Ortega. Food and drinks will be served. One of the volunteer, Saskeia Mitchell said "There will be finger foods and a club vibe." DJ Neptune will be there to bring the club atmosphere. Free for students that have BCC ID. Guests pay \$3. Proceeds go to the Kids in Distress foundation.

EVENT INFO

What: Holiday Bash

Where: BCC South Campus Gym

When: Friday, December 8, 2006, from 8 p.m. – 12 a.m.

Cost: FREE with BCC ID, \$3 for guests

South Campus thanks its students

BY HEATHER DULMAN
SOUTH BUREAU CHIEF

It is turkey day here on South Campus; however it is eight days earlier. South Campus brought the south family together at the Southern Breezeway on Nov. 15.

Hosted by Student Life, Student life worker were Carl Beaubrum and Volunteer Coordinator Sherry O'Brien, O'Brien dressed up as an Indian and Beaubrum dressed up as a pilgrim.

"It's an honor to be part of the celebration of the history of Thanksgiving, at least I'm not dressed up as a turkey," said Beaubrum.

"It was very successful every

one enjoyed the food, the music and the whole event," said O'Brien.

They had an intro to where thanksgiving derived from. They had audience participation a lot of students gathered together for the luncheon. There was a traditional Thanksgiving dinner including turkey, mashed potatoes and all kinds of pie.

Charles Harris who helped served the food said, "It went good everybody had fun, people were dancing and eating."

DJ Neptune was there to bring the music for the students. All went well people had a good time it was like welcome back week all over again.



PHOTO BY JOHNNY LOUIS

A successful Thanksgiving event was held by the staff of South Campus and its Student Life members.

South Campus has a new REACH

Students encouraged to join in the new volunteer club

BY HEATHER DULMAN
SOUTH BUREAU CHIEF

There is a new club on campus, this club is called (REACH) which stands for Raising Efforts through Action Commitment, Hospitality. Candace James created the once known acronym that was a club before. The President of REACH is Saskeia Mitchell and Vice President is Kim Gonzalez, they have created this helpful club. "Just one Friday evening at the spur of the moment Kim and I decided to create a new organization," said Mitchell.

The REACH program focuses on Volunteering to give back to the community. The club started two weeks since the fall of 2006 semester started. Sherry O'Brien is the adviser. "The OVAL, Office of Volunteerism and Leadership is

a part of Student Life; REACH club decided to encourage volunteering to the community and campus," said O'Brien.

Mitchell said, "I am thinking of resigning since I am graduating in Dec. We are looking for new members starting in Jan. Hopefully we can nominate e-board members. However, I am coming back to the SPB (Student Programming Board) to work on events."

They had a bake sale on Oct. 23 in the Breezeway. Many of the items were a \$1 at most. "I would like to thank the people and Sherry O'Brien who supported and helped out participating in this event," said Mitchell. Some of the proceeds that were raised went to the Kids in Distress foundation.

Watch out for more of the activities that REACH will be conjuring up in the semesters to come.

World Aids Day: A reminder to never give up

BY ANDRES LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

Every year the numbers keep rising, both those infected and those who have come to meet with the so often and final result of what it is to have a disease that takes hundreds of thousands of lives each year, the killer involved has a name, its called AIDS.

The acquired immune deficiency syndrome in the year 2004 captured the lives of 529,113 people in the United States alone, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In 2004 the state of Florida had 96,712 people pass away to Aids, leaving the mark of having the third highest number of deaths in the country only trailing New



York and California.

Aids does not care about the race, age, or sex of a person, it is not discriminatory at all when it comes to who it is that will be affected by the disease that takes the lives of millions of people around the

world each and every year. Various organizations have gathered to create an event that will generate awareness to the spread of Aids; such an event has been chosen to be Dec. 1.

World Aids Day is the day that is to be recognized worldwide as the day that a red ribbon is to be worn. It is an international symbol of AIDS awareness that is worn by people all year round and particularly around World AIDS Day to demonstrate care and concern about HIV and AIDS, and to remind others of the need for their support and commitment.

It would be a phenomenal idea that on Dec. 1 all members of society be involved in this effort to bring HIV and AIDS awareness.

JOU 1100 - BASIC REPORTING CLASS

Students are invited to sign up for this rewarding class on South Campus which will hone their skills as a professional reporter. Top grades in this class are eligible for first choice as reporters for *The Observer*.

Taught by Jennifer Shapiro, adviser to *The Observer* newspaper.

Student terrorized on North Campus

BY ANTHONY PERRUCCI
NORTH BUREAU CHIEF

A female student of Broward Community College was attacked in a parking lot on Wednesday, November 14 in a brazen daylight assault and rape attempt.

Authorities say that at 9 a.m., the student was sitting in her car, preparing for class that morning. As she opened the door, the man struck her in the face, pushing her into her car. In the ensuing struggle, the woman fought the man, kicking him. He fled, and she left in her vehicle.

There were no eyewitnesses to the attack, police say.

The attack is believed to be the second by a man who six days earlier attacked a woman at Atlantic Technical Center in Coconut Creek. A security camera recording shows the man grabbing a professor by the throat and dragging her to a nearby restroom, where according to reports he physically assaulted her until her screams attracted the attention of a passer-by.

The woman lost her car keys in the attack, and it is believed that the suspect may have stolen her car, a black 2001 Mazda Millenia.

Both women gave police similar descriptions of their assailant, who is described as a man either white or light-skinned Hispanic, in his early-to-mid-20s, 180 to 190 pounds, with short brown hair. He is of stocky build, and "strong," warned Judie Banks, an Information Officer for the Coconut Creek Police.

The incident has raised fears at the campus that security is unable to keep students safe.

"It's ridiculous," student Brennan Lecky said of the daylight assault. "That's when most of the kids is here. I don't know what they're paying security guards for."

Student Sue Chang, saying the safety measures in place at the time of the attack were inadequate and misdirected, expressed her frustration as well. "[The campus] needs more safety patrols ... [they] want to sit in carts and give tickets."

In response to the attack, the school has taken measures

to increase student safety and awareness, both at North Campus and college-wide.

On Wednesday, Nov. 15, one day after the attack, the school sent through e-mail a list of tips to all students of BCC.

At the campus itself, Provost Dr. Barbara J. Bryan said that North Campus has added, at the college's expense, an increased police presence through the Coconut Creek Police Department. Additional school security has been pressed into service. In the wake of the incident, four campus safety officers have been added, alongside three marked and two unmarked police cars.

"Safety is the college's first priority," Bryan said. "We take safety very seriously, and will always make concerted efforts to provide a safe environment at BCC."

"We're concerned about our campus and our community," Bryan continued, asking all students to be more alert of their surroundings.

Banks concurred, cautioning students to be more attentive to what is around them.

"Call police if something doesn't feel right. Pictures are wonderful, camera phones are wonderful, cell phones are wonderful," advised Banks.

Banks also suggested that students stay in pairs, and enlist help of male friends if needed, a measure students say they've already begun to take.

Lecky's female friends are "not scared, but cautious. They don't want to walk alone."

The incident has captured the attention of local news media, propelling North campus to the lead story of the nightly news on multiple stations.

"Telemundo was here," Lecky said, in addition to WTVJ-Ch. 6, WSVN-Ch. 7, and WPLG-Ch. 10, all of whom had news anchors placing reports from the school.

Anyone with information concerning the attack at North Campus is urged to call Crimestoppers at 954-973-TIPS (954-973-8477). A \$1,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of the suspect.



PHOTO BY ARCHIE ASAR

The "chosen ones" are put to sleep by Hypnotist Daniel James.

Are you feeling sleepy yet?

BY ARCHIE ASAR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Spooky morning turned into a fun show with Hypnotist Daniel James putting the students at North Campus literally to a sleep, as group of the "chosen ones" go under for a bit.

Halloween Bash at North campus had everything, from Pumpkin Carving contest to a Hypnotist directly from Las Vegas, Student Life event turned out to be a fun event. Early in the morning departments clubs and organizations brought in their carved pumpkins and displayed outside of Bldg. 46 at North.

There were 12 entries, from Cashiers office, Campus Safety, Student Life and other among the entries. Over 100 students voted for the best pumpkin. Student Life

took the Grand Prize with their entry of the famous Pirate Captain Davie Jones, carved into the pumpkin with a scene created from the Movie Pirates of the Caribbean on display. Blue Hawks finished second with an Alien Pumpkin and the Admissions office took third with their carved Cowboy.

First place prize was a Pizza Party for the entry who won. Student Life will be awarded in the coming days. Next was the Main Event James who has his own show In Las Vegas pick out a group of students to be part of his show. Over 100 students were in the attendance. James kept the audience roaring with laughter for an hour. James' show combines imagination and reality which made it even more bizarre. Almost the entire student was under Hypnosis with the exception of two

who could not con the James, and were sent back to the audience.

During the show James made the participants, dance, sing, sleep and act crazy. Some of the students were asked to do certain things when James called out a certain phrase that was precious. Some could not remember their own names, some made up names for their imaginary birds. And some were so deep into hypnosis; even after the show the affects could be felt.

Overall, it was great fun and students, faculty and staff enjoyed the festivities provided throughout out the day. The day was capped out with a scary movie, "When a Stranger Calls," at the coffee house during the evening hours, and it was big hit as students watched the movie outside on a giant screen.

Students fed wisdom at health fair

BY ANTHONY PERRUCCI
NORTH BUREAU CHIEF

On Nov. 13, North Campus' Omni Auditorium was the site of BCC's Health Fair, an event meant to provide students with entertainment, food, and an opportunity to educate themselves on the basics, and finer points, of keeping themselves healthy.

However, for all the number of tables staffed by volunteer health workers, and despite the presence of live music and numerous free samples, the atmosphere seemed too close to a party held in an empty room, with the lights turned off.

Inside the Omni, which was prepared to receive dozens of students, the flow of traffic never rose above a light trickle. The many rows of chairs set up to face the stage only held 19 nevertheless enthusiastic onlookers to the show put on by musical group Recycled Percussion. The group, whose show is based upon making music by drumming upon all manner of plastic and metal improvised instruments, such as garbage cans and fire extinguishers, set the rallying cry for those who did attend.

"We're glad you came out," said Recycled Percussion member Justin Spencer. "You guys stayed, and that's cool. I'd rather have 20 people that stayed than 100 that leave."

At one of the tables set up around the perimeter of the basketball court across from the stage, Women in Distress volunteer

Sarah Davidson explained what that organization stands for. "We offer a variety of services," she said, listing "shelters, anger management classes, parenting classes and self-esteem classes." WID is "a full-service organization ... offering a place to go and get a new start. [WID] makes that possible."

At a separate table, Alzheimer's Family Center, workers Candee Braunstein and Marilyn Miller listed the services the AFC provides to in-home caregivers of those with Alzheimer's disease.

Nearby, Broward County Health Department worker Brooke Mootry sat behind a table stocked with pamphlets and condoms. The health department's presence at the event was designed to get across to students "the importance of taking care of themselves sexually," Mootry said, encouraging "getting tested and stopping the spread of AIDs and other diseases."

The health department was providing free of charge blood tests for HIV/AIDs as well as for other sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis. Workers Eric Davis and Jeff Doe sat in a nearly-empty room. Davis estimated that only about eight tests had been taken by the event's midpoint. "We've seen it busier," admitted Doe. The tests, which screen the blood for antibodies produced to fight infection, usually take about two weeks to come back from the lab. Davis encouraged all sexually active students to practice safe sex and get screened regularly.

By the event's end, the

remaining students trickled out as the musicians and road crew cleared the stage.

"I loved it," gushed student Dana Mininson of the performance as she clutched an autographed drumstick.

The band, explained stage manager David "the Dr" Bogue, is one of the hardest-touring in the business, playing over 250 dates a year. "We measure duct tape by the mile," he said, slicing through yards of stuff while dismantling the set, most of it heavy-duty plastic garbage cans, bread trays and numerous folding chairs.

Second-year student Kayla Bowyer, who arrived as the last remnants of the event was being packed away, nevertheless offered her opinion of the event. "I think it's very good they're promoting health," she said. The free food donated to the event likewise garnered her enthusiasm. "It was good," she laughed.

Immediately outside the doors of the Omni, a bloodmobile was parked next to a RV staffed by Hope Women's Center. Across the sidewalk was parked a NASCAR simulator, housed in a full-size replica of the Chevrolet Monte Carlo driven by Jeff Gordon.

"A majority" of drivers wind up wrecking, said Kim St. John, who was running the simulator. Nearby, student Andre Benjamin cheered on friend Andres Bustimante, who was behind the wheel. "Get back on the track, dog!" said Benjamin, watching the monitor showing the car skid helplessly across the track's grassy infield.

PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS FROM BCC

- Keep car doors locked at all times, even while in your car.
- Walk with friends or classmates whenever possible.
- In the evening, stay in well-lit areas.
- Walk facing traffic.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Investigate the campus during broad daylight. Become familiar with the general layout of the buildings and walkways, and the location of emergency call boxes.
- Walk with your head up and look around as you walk.
- Carry your keys in your hand.
- Carry a cell phone and program in the number of campus safety.
- Take a personal defense class. There, one can learn effective defense techniques, such as screaming loudly, fighting back, and running away.
- Report suspicious persons immediately.
- Trust your instincts. Leave an area if you are uncomfortable and seek a safe location.

Scott & Larz rock the coffee house at WHC

BY EMILY CORNWELL
WHC BUREAU CHIEF

Last Monday night, the down town campus' typical coffee house was livened up with the presence of a great acoustic duo, Scott and Larz. Scott Celani and Larz Ruzzuto, both Buffalo natives had literally just arrived in Ft. Lauderdale thirty minutes prior to their show.

While they were setting up a few questions were asked, and good answers received from the personable performers.

The two will have toured BCC's downtown, Davie and Coconut creek campuses, before moving north to Tallahassee and later to Atlanta by week's end.

With about fifteen students presents the laid back guys got started up with a fun tune, 'Delni,' at 5:30 p.m. sharp.

The approximately hour long set consisted of eleven songs of acoustic versions of their further developed tracks from every one of their four albums.

After sharing the stage with names such as Out Lady peace, Hootie and the blowfish, and another Buffalo favorite; the GooGoo Dolls, Scott and Larz were probably surprised at the smallish turn out. Whether

that's true or not wouldn't have been apparent based on the performance that was given.

With Larz on guitar and base drum a portion of the time, and Scott on guitar and vocals, the two did an awesome job of playing off of one another's skill and rhythm. Well-thought out and very relatable lyrics made for a fantastic session.

"The energy was great" proclaimed one student I ran into on my way out. "You could tell that they gave it their all."

Other songs played included the title track off of their second CD release 'Saturday,' along with tunes titled 'Crying in her sleep,' 'Biting my tongue,' and 'How the story ends.' A lot of the songs were about phases

in life and relationships which surely makes them popular in the college scene.

Their fourth album, Wired for Nostalgia, was recently featured at the duos release party last Saturday night in New York, and features 10 tracks from the usual five members, of a nine piece group.

Celani and Ruzzuto both revealed some raw instrumental, lyrical and vocal talent throughout their set on Monday evening. The cute duo defiantly did a great job at entertaining the students passing into student life, and absolutely made a number of new fans. Both men put great energy into their music



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTTCELANI.COM

Scott Celani performing at one of his earlier shows in Tampa, Florida.

and jammed out for a very memorable coffee house.

For more information, albums, or cute t-shirts and pins check out group's website at ScottCelani.com.



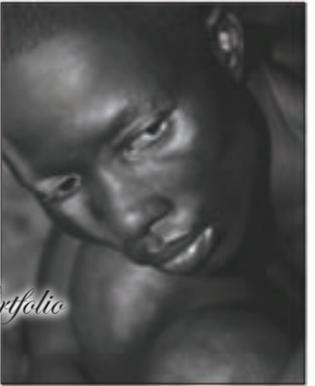
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■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

proper order. “

The official ground breaking was May 12, 2005. Plans to construct the new library were voted on in 1999. The bond funded by the County passed in 1999, paying for the library building; it is not funded by the college.

The old library was too small, said Justice. When it first opened up there were not that many computers.

“Few people, small college, but one of the busiest libraries,” Casper said.

The new library will contain more computers and more room for studying. There will also be new features including a large, quiet study room, public computer lab, larger auditorium (mass media room) and more space. It will be about the same size as the South West Regional Library at the Pines Center, which has two floors. However, South Campus’ would be newer and updated.

“I’m excited to be able to serve many people in the community. It will also attract people to visit more,” said BCC student/Library Aide, Cliff Webb.

“I think it’s great. I didn’t know it was going to move. It is wonderful. They deserve a new home,” said Kathy Reddy, a frequent library patron.

The old library will still have the Learning Resource Center and also might be



PHOTO BY DAVID COOPER

An exclusive shot of the facilities inside the new library on South Campus.

used for offices for faculty members.

It will also be the first library or building in Broward County to be (LEED) certified. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. This means there would be cheaper lighting and conditioning costs.

Hanson and Hanson were approved to remodel Building

19 at Central Campus and are now constructing the new library.

“I think they would be a really good group. We are going to depend on their decisions,” said Justice. “We may get to the point in the term where it’s not a good idea to move because it would not be good for the students to not have a library... once everything is

organized; it is still however going to be a lot of work to do.”

There will be a grand opening, which has yet to be determined, but is suggested to be near the end of December, or the beginning of January 2007.

“This allows us to grow and attract more people every time a new library opens. It’s much

better to get to leave a cramped area. I think the students will love their new library,” said Casper.

“When you go find your favorite store, it’s never difficult to find it the second time,” Justice said referring to the library.

For more information on LEED certifying, go to usgbc.org.

Dr. Holcombe returns as interim president

After Calderon’s resignation, a temporary president is quickly appointed to manage affairs

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“I had the pleasure of knowing him [Holcombe] before he left. I had a good transition with him and I think he has a lot of heartfelt love for this institution, and he’s going to step in and do the best job he can.”

Others were focused on Calderon’s resignation.

“It’s a loss to be losing Dr. Calderon. I think he was an inspiration and it was good to have a diverse president,” said Claudia Sahagun, on of those in attendance.

Wivinia Cabey-Edgecombe, a BCC student, commented on her reaction to Calderon’s resignation, “I was extremely shocked when I heard about the president’s resignation on NPR news.”

She continues, “I knew discussions were underway regarding contractual issues, but I never anticipated that course of action.”

Willis Holcombe is anything but a complete stranger to Broward Community College, though, and his history with the school has everyone optimistic.

His first position in BCC administration was in August 1974, as an assistant to President A. Hugh Adams. Later, after spending six years as Vice President of Brevard Community College, he returned to BCC and succeeded Dr. Adams in January, 1987, to become the school’s fourth president. He retired on Jan. 31, 2004; BCC’s Willis Holcombe Center was named in his honor.

Outside of being president, Dr. Holcombe has been a part of many professional activities, such as serving as chairman for the College Consortium for International Studies.

He has served in non-profit and community-service organizations. He has also

served on the board of directors of many organizations, like the Boys Clubs of Broward County and the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center. After all of this work and his retirement in 2004, he continues to conduct leadership workshops throughout the state.

“BCC and the Board of Trustees are delighted to welcome back Dr. Holcombe to guide us through the selection of a permanent president... We are so pleased to welcome him home,” said Williams.

Students, faculty, staff, and administration alike are confident that BCC will recover from the loss of Calderon and find a new president as quickly as possible. In the meantime, they support the board’s decision to offer Dr. Willis Holcombe the position of interim president and look forward to what he has to offer this time around.



FILE PHOTO

Dr. Willis Holcombe, BCC’s previous president, takes office again, temporarily succeeding Dr. Calderon as the interim president of the college.

Dr. Calderon leaves his mark on BCC

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in early November, Dr. Calderon is now moving a short distance away, taking on the specially-created role of Vice President of Community and Governmental Affairs at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale.

Coming to BCC

To quell the fear that some may have felt of Dr. Calderon not being fully prepared, when Dr. Calderon first became president of BCC, he was actually quite educated on the needs of the community.

When asked what he had anticipated of the tasks and duties he was responsible for, he acknowledged that he didn't know much initially, but he said that he "did quite a bit of homework before [considering] moving down here..." said Dr. Calderon. While he had, at first knew very little about Broward County or South Florida in general, he had said that he "knew nothing about BCC."

"The first thing I did was start doing some research on BCC, who you guys were and how long you've been around, and what kind of growth you've experienced... what the economic situation was, what the role of the community college was in relationship to the education segments—the K-12 and four-year universities," notes Dr. Calderon.

"I think I had a very good idea of what BCC had become and had the potential of becoming. That's really what attracted me to it: The magnitude of the opportunity," continues Dr. Calderon.

"One College" philosophy

Calderon identified a central issue of focus that the college needed to recognize, and brought up the problems that needed to be addressed.

"We were able to accomplish much more in a short time than I thought was possible. What I mean by that is when you've got a staff as large as BCC—some 1,700 employees when you count them all—and the 60,000 students, the fact that it's been around for 40 years now, the institution developed a sense of tradition, for lack of a better term, in which they're used to doing things one way," comments Calderon.

"My challenge... was to try to get the culture to become more current in terms of realizing what changes have occurred in the community that BCC was serving, and to bring an inner focus, from an institutional perspective, all the efforts of the collective body, the four main campuses—South Campus, Central, North, and Downtown Center—into a 'One College' philosophy that allowed us to become more focused, more efficient, and more strategic in our ability to identify the issues

that need to be dealt with."

Calderon's swift and powerful "One College" philosophy was a way of bringing successful business prowess to an academic facility.

Calderon spoke more of his "One College" philosophy, and how he didn't see it when he first arrived.

"My job [was] to get everyone on those issues and get them coming together as a team as opposed to unified or unique silos operating on their own control," Calderon elaborates.

"...I was very pleased with how soon and quickly people responded [and] they were almost hungry for leadership that would bring them together," he adds.

Acknowledgements

During his time, Calderon had recognized some of the more influential members of the college. He spoke highly of the

Student Governments on BCC and their strong student bodies, and noted two specifics: Debbie Nycz, and Eileen Holden, who has moved on to President of Polk Community College, both for their notable hard work and dedication to BCC while in administrative positions at BCC.

Final thoughts and speculation

During his time as president of the college, Dr. Calderon had been the subject of much distaste by many student workers. However, what nobody had realized is that proper management of a college system begins with its very governing board, and so the primary focus of the president's mission must remain to improve such management.

In the last issue of *The Observer*, it had been reported that the United Faculty of Florida (UFF) had unanimously voted

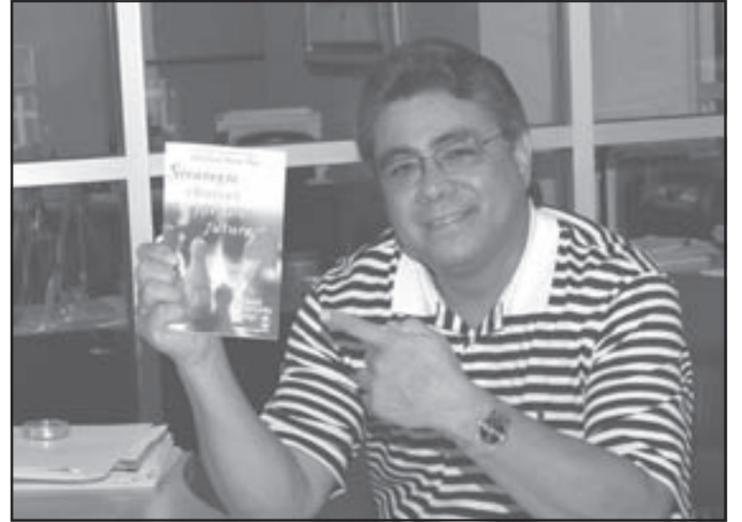
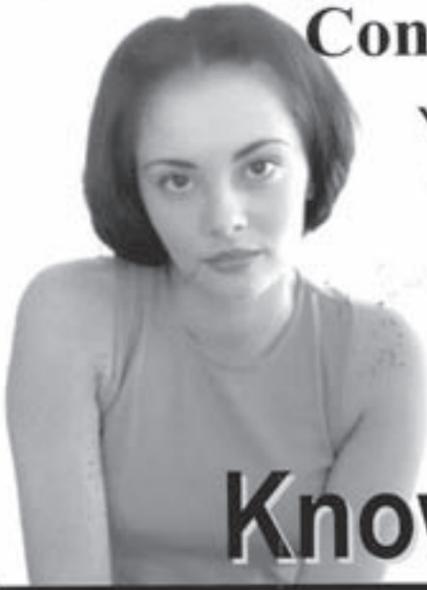


PHOTO BY JOHNNY LOUIS

Dr. Calderon introduces his "One College" philosophy, along with other ideas for a more efficient college administration, in his pamphlet, "Strategic Choices for the Future."

on a vote of no confidence in the current Board, and it appears that much of the Board's ability to govern this college is finally being brought to the attention of those in position to do something about it.

While the current ruling Board's future in BCC remains to be seen, it is certain that Dr. Calderon will only continue to influence the community in Broward and beyond with his successes here.



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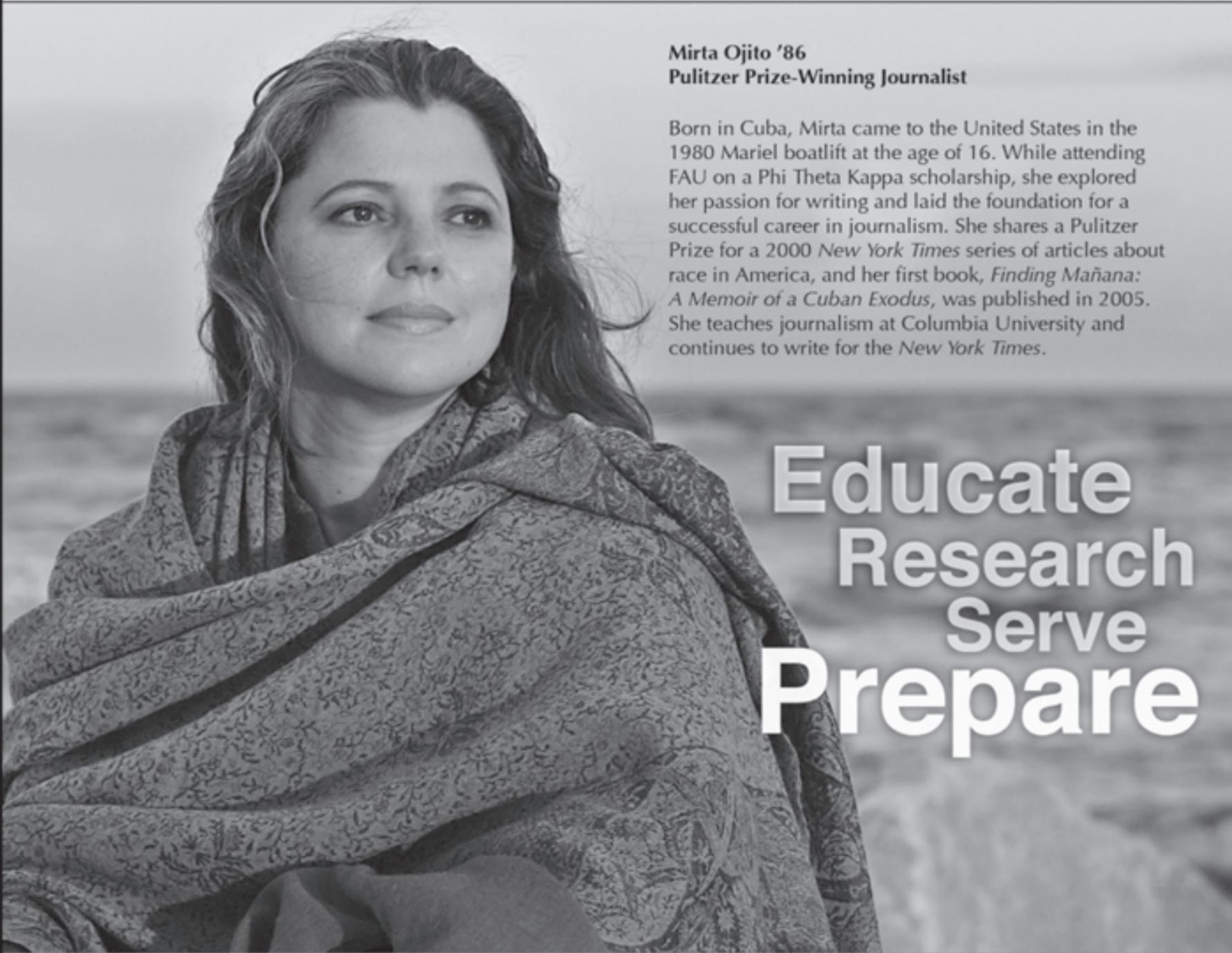


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Mirta Ojito '86
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist

Born in Cuba, Mirta came to the United States in the 1980 Mariel boatlift at the age of 16. While attending FAU on a Phi Theta Kappa scholarship, she explored her passion for writing and laid the foundation for a successful career in journalism. She shares a Pulitzer Prize for a 2000 *New York Times* series of articles about race in America, and her first book, *Finding Mañana: A Memoir of a Cuban Exodus*, was published in 2005. She teaches journalism at Columbia University and continues to write for the *New York Times*.

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BCC theatre gets provocative

BY HEATHER DULMAN
SOUTH BUREAU CHIEF

Keep your eyes and ears open for some comedy and protests of two one-act plays all together called "What's Love Got to Do with It?" One of the plays is by Carole Real called "Why the Beach Boys are like Opera" and the other play is "The Altruists by Nicky Silver." These two one-acts will be showing at the Fine Arts Theater (Bailey Hall) on Central Campus (Bldg. 6 room 200) from Dec. 8-10.

"I thought students would really be able to relate to the characters and their dilemmas. Both these plays are very funny comedies, yet they do present serious messages about people trying to make sense of a chaotic and confusing world," said Director, Mariah Johnson.

"The first act is conservative and kind of cutesy. Kitchen sink drama—its daily issues. The second act deals with people's own agendas. Everyone has a double standard, it's unbelievable," said Allysa Tacher (Sydney.)

Why the Beach Boys are Like Opera is a modern-day comedy about finding "Mr. Perfect." Three women are searching for their soul mates.

"To me the act I'm in which is called *Why the Beach Boys are Like Drama*, reminds me of playing match maker. There are mature materials in both acts. Especially when one of the actors is half naked," said Nicki Perrino (Beth.)

The *Altruists* is a politically incorrect comedy that deals with hypocritical citizens that get caught up in the protest game.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIAH JOHNSON

Karen (Ananga Pigna) and Shane (Richie Greene) star in "Why the Beach Boys are Like Opera."

"This play is all politics, I'm doing research and I'm not used to being an actress. I'm used to doing tech stuff. I'm so excited. It's fun to be able to develop a character for the stage because you can do and say things that you normally wouldn't do," said Jodi Dellaventura (Cybil.)

Stephen Perrot, who plays Ronald in the *Altruists*, said he likes all the characters because they are interesting. They worked three days a week for two hours Monday-Wednesday.

"I think BCC students will love these characters and definitely relate to their situations. Everyone longs to find that perfect soul mate. Everyone has a friend who has goofy relationship issues," said Johnson. "We all, in our hearts, want to make the world a better place but struggle with letting

go of the material things we love. And we all, certainly, love to sit back and escape our own problems through laughter."

Johnson wants everyone to come out and watch the play; however the play is recommended for mature audiences age 16 and over.

"BCC students who come to the show will have a great opportunity to release some pre-finals tension by enjoying these very funny plays," she said.

Tickets for all of the performances will be \$4 for BCC students, faculty and staff with I.D and \$8 for general admission. The show times are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

For more information on the play, or if there are any questions, call the Bailey Hall Box Office at 954-201-6884.

Catch a Fire burns out

BY ANGELA OSBORNE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Is it terrorism or fighting for the freedom of a people? You can be the judge. *To Catch a Fire* puts the apartheid that South Africa faced in the 1980's into a new perspective.

Based on a true story, the story follows an apolitical family man that is transformed into a militant freedom fighter after being victimized by the police and secret service (FBI.)

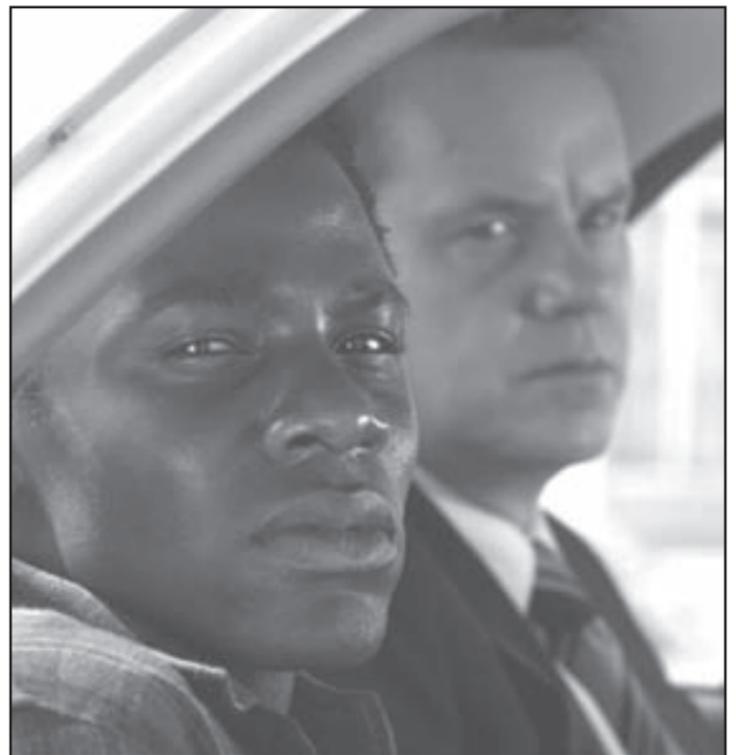
In the beginning Patrick Chamuso, played by Derek Luke, wants nothing to do with the revolution that is unfolding around him, he is the Forman at a petroleum plant and follows all the rules that the government a white minority, has placed on the African majority.

Chamuso is falsely accused

of bombing the plant that he works at, he is arrested and then repeatedly tortured, he still maintains his apolitical beliefs. However when the police imprison and torture his wife Precious his views on the situation facing his country drastically change.

After he is released, Chamuso decides to leave is home, family and job to train in the military wing of the African National Congress. Risking his own life Chamuso sets out to bomb the plant that he was worked at.

Although *To Catch a Fire* avoids answering the hard questions about terrorism, it can however lead you to finding your own conclusion about who was right or wrong. This movie is most certainly one that should be seen, but can wait until it hit the shelves on DVD.



SCREEN CAPTURE

Derek Luke and Tim Robbins during a heated moment in the film.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PRESENTS



SITTING ON A BEAM OF LIGHT

The history and nature of light, EM, and lasers.

A Brief History of the Nature of Light

BY WILLIAM BREIM
SCI-TECH EDITOR

Light is one of the most fascinating topics in all of physics. It is through light and a technique called spectroscopy that we can study the heavens and find out what makes up stars that are light years away. You would think that physicists have light pinned and defined by now, but that is not quite the case. Because light simultaneously exhibits properties of both waves and particles, the precise nature of light is a key question in modern physics.

A particle on the classical view is a concentration of energy and other properties in space and time, whereas a wave is spread out over a larger region of space and time. The question is whether light is streams of particles or waves. The attempt to define light as one or the other is typically a classic way to think of it, different from the more modern way which can include both aspects. In this article we will explore the advances made in both camps.

René Descartes's theory is often regarded as the forerunner of the wave theory of light held that light was a disturbance of the "plenum", the continuous substance of which the universe was composed. In the 1660s the work of Pierre Gassendi was published after his death in which he proposed a particle theory of light and Sir Isaac Newton, a young man at the time, studied Gassendi's work and preferred this view of light over Descartes "plenum". Newton stated in his Hypothesis of Light of 1675 that light was composed of corpuscles (particles of matter) which were emitted in all directions from a source. One of Newton's arguments against the wave nature of light was that waves were known to bend around obstacles, while light traveled only in straight lines. Newton's theory could be used to predict the reflection of light, but could only explain refraction by incorrectly assuming that light accelerated upon entering a denser medium because the gravitational pull was greater.

Newton published the final version of his theory in his Optics of 1704. His reputation helped the particle theory of light to dominate physics during the 18th century.

Meanwhile Christian Huygens worked out his own wave theory of light in 1678, and published it in his *Treatise on light* in 1690. He proposed that light was emitted in all directions as a series of waves in a medium. As waves are not affected by gravity, it was assumed that they slowed down upon entering a denser medium. The weakness of the wave theory was that light waves, like sound waves, would need a medium for transmission. A hypothetical substance called the luminiferous aether was proposed for which strong evidence against was later found.

A problem you may have found now is that Newton's particle theory implied that light would travel faster in a denser medium, while the wave theory of Huygens and others implied the opposite. At that time, the speed of light could not be measured accurately enough to decide which theory was correct. Early in the 19th century, experiments were made to show that light is a wave motion. A key figure in this endeavor was Thomas Young, said to be "the last person to know everything" he was proficient in virtually every academic topic in western society of his time. He studied diffraction and interference of light in 1803 obtaining results that gave

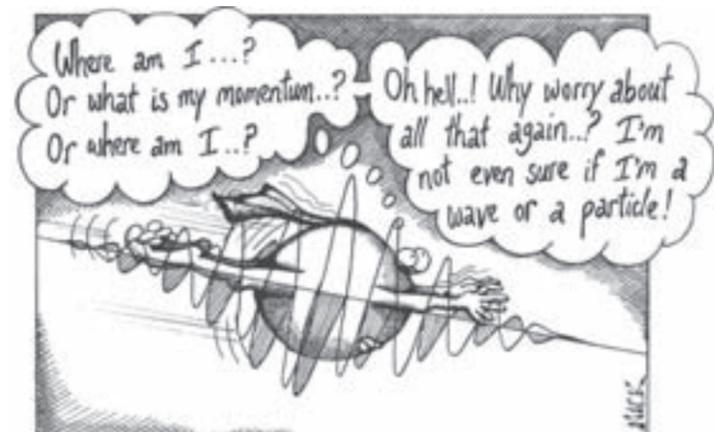
strong support to the wave theory of Christian Huygens as opposed to the particle theory of Isaac Newton. The first to make a sufficiently accurate measurement was French physicist Léon Foucault, in 1850. His result supported the wave theory, and the classical particle theory was finally abandoned.

Yet another theory was developed just as wave theory took over particle theory, the mathematical theory of electromagnetism by James Clerk Maxwell, set up in 1864 and largely inspired by Michael Faraday's previous work, led to the view that light is of electromagnetic nature, propagating as a wave from the source to the receiver. Maxwell discovered that self-propagating electromagnetic waves would travel through space at a constant speed, which happened to be equal to the previously measured speed of light. In 1873 Maxwell published *A Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism*, which contained a full mathematical description of the behavior of electric and magnetic fields, still known today as Maxwell's equations. Soon after Maxwell's theory were experimentally confirmed by a German physicist named Heinrich Hertz by generating and detecting radio waves in the laboratory, and demonstrating that these waves behaved exactly like visible light, exhibiting properties such as reflection, refraction, diffraction, and interference. Maxwell's theory and Hertz's experiments led directly to

the development of modern radio, radar, television, electromagnetic imaging, and wireless communications.

At the end of 19th century, the wave theory was extremely successful and it could explain an array of phenomena related to light. Still there were certain experiments that were in direct conflict with wave theory. One of those experiments was the Photoelectric effect by which light striking metal surface ejected electrons from the surface. Experimental measurements demonstrated that the energy of individual ejected electrons was proportional to the frequency, rather than the intensity, of the light. No one could explain why this was happening since it was contradictory to wave theory. Then along came Einstein in 1905 and he explained this phenomena by resurrecting the particle theory of light, by arguing that light can be described as discrete bundles of energy to be later called the photon.

Finally we have the modern theory that explains the nature of light as a wave-particle duality, described by Albert Einstein in the early 1900s, based on his work on the photoelectric effect the theory states that everything has both a particle nature and a wave nature, and various experiments can be done to bring out one or the other. The particle nature is more easily discerned if an object has a large mass. Einstein received the Nobel Prize in 1921 for his work with the wave-particle duality on photons.



HOW TO BUILD A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION

BY RICK DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Light Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation is the expanded name of the popular acronym (LASER.) Everyone knows, at least in very basic concepts, what a laser is although how they work can become a tricky subject that is often heavy in physics and chemistry but by examining the roots of the acronym some light can be shed upon the laser.

The Bible refers to God making light, "Let there be light!", and so it was, although not until the 1950s and 1960s did scientists create laser light because of the specific properties it must have to be called a laser. First, although lasers may glow or emit sparks only the "beam" is considered to be the laser light. This beam has two very important properties, that of coherence and wavelength. Laser light is monochromatic which means the light has a very specific wavelength, such as red or blue. Also, the light is coherent, which in simple terms means all of the emitted light is aligned or organized in the same fashion.

Skipping to the end of the acronym Radiation is term many people know from x-

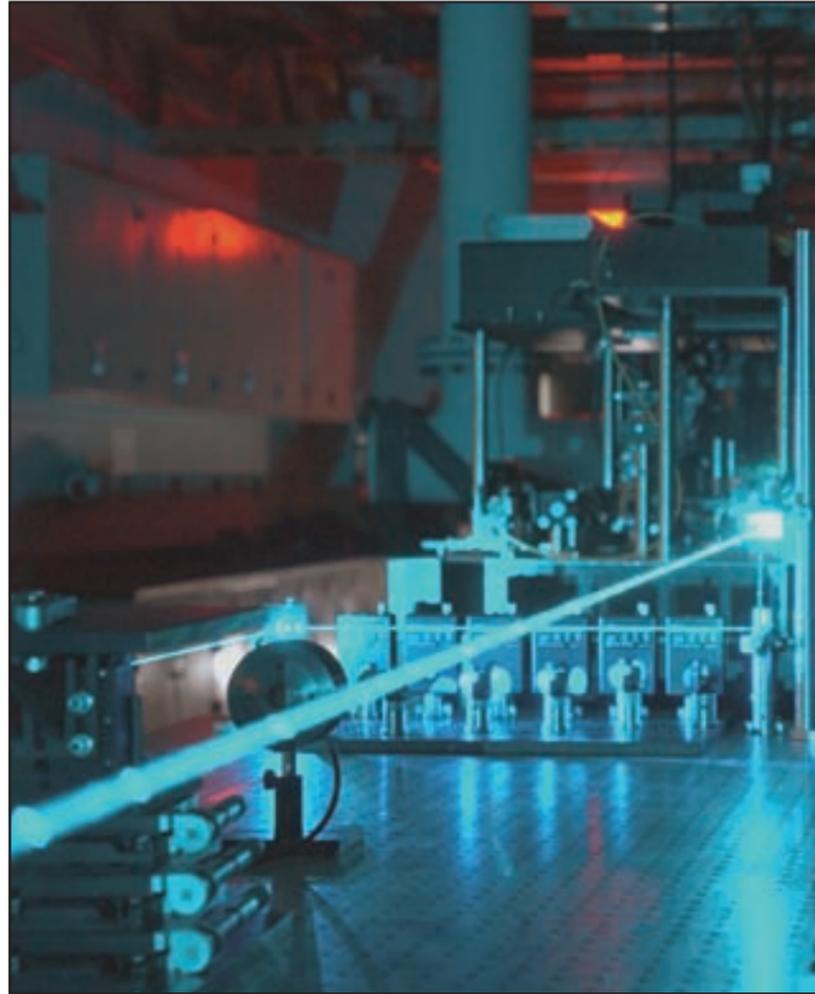
rays or power plants although the use of the term here has a strict scientific meaning. This usage of the term relates to Electromagnetic Radiation or the spectrum in which energy is found. Everyone is familiar with some portions of the spectrum, such as the parts that have visible light, radio waves and other commonly found types. Each individual part of the spectrum is linked to a certain type of wave or particle which is classified by a term called wavelength.

Now, we just need to examine the other three terms, which we can discuss all at once since they relate to each other directly. Lasers produce light from stimulated emission which requires a type of amplification. What happens is an electron starts at rest, called the ground state. Depending on the type of laser some outside source excites this electron into a higher state, usually called an excited state. The electrons don't like to be there so they quickly move back to the ground state however on the way they produce a photon which accounts for the energy loss of the two states. This emission of photons is not natural so it is "stimulated" by the "amplification" process.

There are only a handful of ways to produce laser light and they are categorized by the medium, or type of material,

used to produce the beam. The first to be developed and the most popular in scientific research and medial use are gas lasers. A mix of gases can be used, such as a CO2 laser that contains nitrogen, helium and carbon dioxide, or a single gas such as argon. A solid or liquid can also be used, such as a crystal rod or chemical compound, and most recently silicon chips and diodes can be used although their development is more complex and their uses are only starting to be realized.

With a thorough understanding of the laser process and its styles a few of the problems inherent in their use can make you appreciate them much more. The biggest drawbacks of lasers are that they are terribly inefficient and the beam is prone to deteriorate quickly. Take efficiency first, the energy found in the beam is usually far below fifty percent and many times below ten percent of the energy used to excite the electrons. Not only does this make their use problematic but it becomes very costly to generate strong laser beams. Also, even the strongest lasers do not work well over long distances. This is called divergence and it describes the way the beam spreads out over distances. Some progress can be made in the design itself otherwise the only fix lies in the optics to keep the photons packed together, without these a typical



beam of only a few millimeters would be over a mile wide by the time it reached the moon... assuming it had enough power to even be detected at that distance under such great dispersion.

Lasers are constantly finding

new uses such as communication in fiber optic cables or surgical tools that precisely cut living tissue and while their uses broaden so does research into new types of lasers and new ways to keep them efficient.

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HOW IT WORKS: THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM

BY NATHAN PHELPS
SCI-TECH EDITOR

The Electromagnetic Spectrum is a name given to the order in which electromagnetic waves are categorized. An electromagnetic wave is simply an interaction between electric and magnetic fields; this interaction is started when a photon is released from an atom. When the photon is emitted it oscillates or vibrates with a specific frequency as it moves. The frequency is the measurement of how many times it oscillates per second. This frequency determines where the

wave sits on the electromagnetic spectrum. The higher the frequency of a wave the more energy the wave has. Gamma rays have the highest frequency and the shortest wavelengths while radio waves are on the other end of the spectrum with the lowest frequency and the longest wavelength.

There are seven categories on the electromagnetic spectrum. Ordered from the smallest frequency to the highest the first category is radio waves. In today's technological based world, radio waves are used everywhere you look, from the

cell phone to the car radio this part of the spectrum is used to transmit information or signals from one place to another. GPS systems triangulate a position on earth by sending a radio wave signal to three satellites and recording how long the signal takes to reach the satellite and return to the device. Radio waves are also emitted from stars and gases in space.

Next on the electromagnetic spectrum is microwave radiation. This is of course used in the device in every home in America, the microwave oven. If enough of the slightly higher energy waves are beamed at an object the waves will penetrate the object and begin to vibrate and heat the atoms in it, thus cooking our food in a very short time. Microwaves are also used for radar, like Doppler radar used in weather forecasting. Because microwaves are able to penetrate haze, light rain, snow, clouds and smoke they are good for viewing earth from space. In the 1960's cosmic microwave background radiation

was discovered throughout the universe. This radiation did not emanate from any specific source and is believed to be a clue to the origins of the universe, or more specifically, the big bang.

The next on the spectrum is infrared light. Infrared waves vary between visible light and microwave light. The wave lengths of infrared light vary just like those of visible light. The wave lengths closest to visible light are called "near Infrared", those closer to the microwave spectrum are termed "far". Far infrared are thermal, producing heat. It is the far infrared spectrum that produces the heat we feel from the sun, a fire or even our own body heat.

Visible light is the one we are most familiar with. This is the only electromagnetic wave that we can see. Each color has a different wave length, red is the longest while violet is the shortest. When a match head is struck the bright red light is emitted from the flame, this is caused by the excitation of the

air molecules from the heat that are releasing electromagnetic waves in the form of visible red and orange light. When all wave lengths are viewed together we see white light. When white light shines through a prism or water droplets it breaks apart into all the colors of the spectrum.

Ultraviolet rays are shorter than visible light rays and cannot be seen by humans. Some insect however are able to see them. It is the ultraviolet rays that are responsible for sunburns. These light rays can be dangerous to humans; too much exposure to ultraviolet rays can cause cancers and other diseases. Today it is of major concern as the ozone layer of the atmosphere seems to be being jeopardized by human activities, for it is the ozone layer that protects the earth from ultraviolet rays.

X-rays are familiar to anyone who has ever been to the hospital. X-rays are used in the medical industry for imaging because of the very high energy in these waves they can penetrate the

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PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. AIR FORCE

The hues in the electromagnetic spectrum can be seen in the colors of the rainbow.

UCTION



Military scientist operates a laser in a test environment. The U.S. Air Force's Directed Energy Directorate conducts research on a variety of solid-state and chemical lasers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. AIR FORCE

field has made incredible the next fifty will bring as yet
 progress in fifty years promising unimagined advances.

skin and bone to give physicians a better view of what makes us sick. These waves having even more energy than ultraviolet rays are significantly more dangerous. Doctors and scientists who work with x-rays on a regular basis are extremely careful because prolonged exposure can be deadly. Madam Curie, a famous physicist, won a nobel prize for her research in radioactivity and its uses in medicine. She was unfortunately a victim of her own research as she died from extreme exposure to radiation; however from her research science has learned how to use these rays to safely peer inside the human body.

The final and most powerful form of electromagnetic radiation is the Gamma ray. These extremely dangerous waves are so energetic that in studies that study them they must protect themselves with several feet of solid cement surrounding the source of the gamma rays. This type of radiation is not common in the everyday however

all you need to do to see where most of these rays come from is look up. Space is filled with all forms of radiation from the electromagnetic spectrum including gamma rays. They're created from numerous things in space, almost everything from stars to black holes emit this frequency of electromagnetic waves. As black holes pull in matter, such as planets and stars, it converts the matter into energy and shoots out huge bursts of gamma radiation. Although this radiation is very deadly it has great uses in the medical field. A gamma knife is a device used to perform brain surgery without the need for actually cutting into the brain; the gamma knife uses focused gamma radiation to treat brain tumors by killing the afflicted cells.

Electromagnetic radiation is in every aspect of life today, from cooking our food to killing brain tumors to lighting the world around us. It is literally the "wave" of the future as well as the "wave" of the past.

Optics: The Science of Light

BY NATHAN PHELPS
SCI-TECH EDITOR

Humans have always been visual animals. We rely on our sight for almost everything. Historically sight was needed to find food and shelter. In today's world of fast paced technology it is even more important for our interaction with the world around us. The one necessary thing for sight is light. Yet how many of us know what light really is? Optics is the study of the science of light. It describes the behavior and the behavior of visible, infrared and ultraviolet light. As sunlight enters the atmosphere, it is absorbed, reflected, scattered, refracted or diffracted by atmospheric particles or air molecules. These processes, individually or in combination, are responsible for producing most optical effects.

Light is made up from photons, which are very small particles of energy. When photons, or light, move they travel in straight lines through a small wave pattern. The frequency at which the wave travels determines whether or not the light is visible to the human eye (ultraviolet, x-rays, ect...) It also determines the colors that we see. When light strikes an object part of the light may be absorbed by it. The color that we see is the light wave that was not absorbed. For instance, grass absorbs all light waves except for green. Blue jeans absorb all except for blue. If all light is absorbed the object will appear to be black. If no wave lengths are absorbed and the

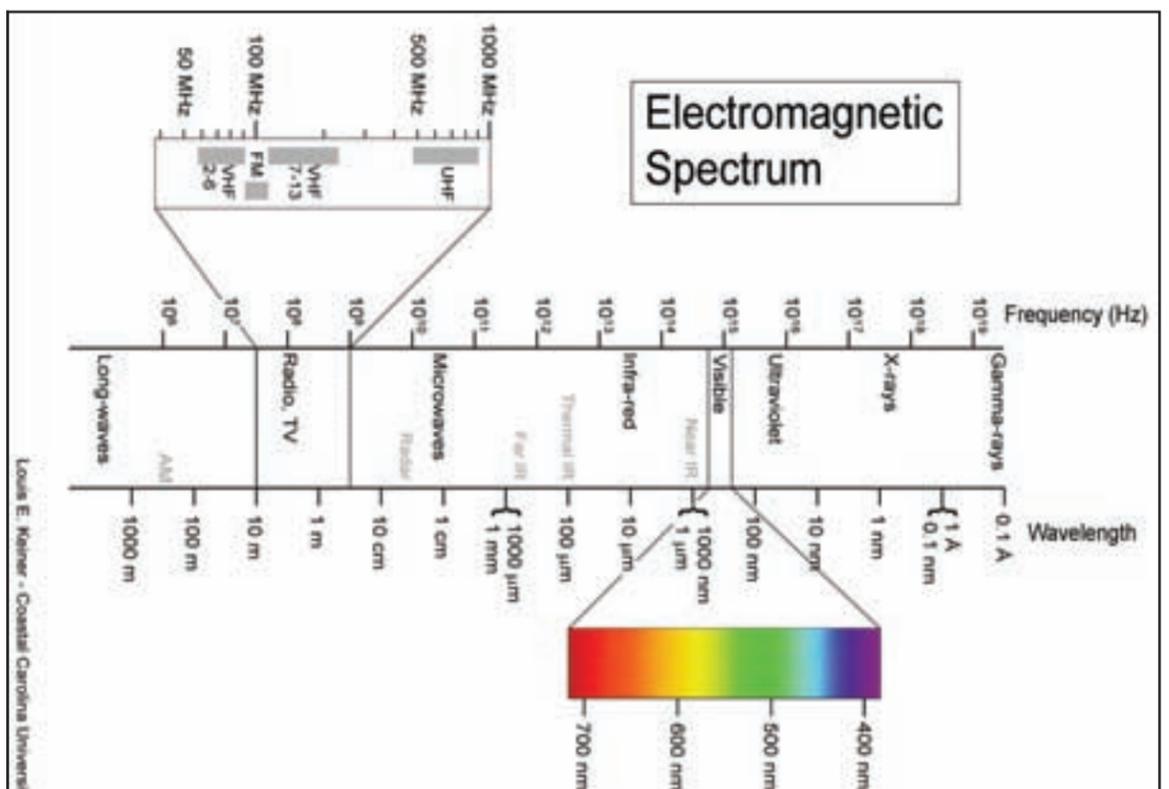
light is reflected the color will be white. This is the reason that black clothing gets hotter than white. Black absorbs all the light energy while the white reflects it.

Reflection of light can happen from either a flat or a curved surface. As light hits a surface, such as a mirror, it behaves much like a pool ball hitting the cushion of the side of the pool table. The reason that we can see is because of reflected light. As light hits an object it is reflected back to our eyes. An obvious example of reflected light is the reflection of a mountain in a lake, or our own reflection in the mirror. Light rays can also be scattered. In reflection, the light ray is deflected in one direction, but light is scattered when air molecules, dust, ice crystals or any other atmospheric particle interrupts the flow of the ray. The scattering of light rays produce some of our most spectacular light shows. Rainbows, sunsets, halos, cloud iridescence and even blue skies are all effects of scattering. The type of optical effect greatly depends upon the type of particle the light encounters. One of the basic questions that all children ask and all adults take for granted is why the sky is blue. The gases in the atmosphere, oxygen and nitrogen diffuse the sun's light rays as they come through to reach the earth. As the light rays collide with these gases the shorter rays (the blue spectrum) are more affected than the longer rays (the red light waves.) Because the blue light waves are nearly the same size as

the oxygen molecules they are scattered by them while the red go right through. This makes the sky appear to be blue/violet. Our eyes complete the cycle by being more sensitive to blue light, thus making the sky appear blue. Conversely, the sun appears to be redder at sunset. The sun light must pass a greater distance through the atmosphere in order to reach our eyes at sunset. The light rays are bent and twisted around the earth's rim scattering the shorter waves and allowing only the red and yellow longer waves to get through. The shorter waves, (blue and violet), are absorbed by the ozone layer and the extended distance of the atmosphere, thus making sunsets enriched with red and yellows.

Rainbows are caused when light shines on water droplets in the air. These droplets act as prisms that bend or refract the light into separate colors, the larger the water droplets the brighter the colors.

Light is an integral part of our world. Without it life as we know it would not exist. Colors can alter our mood and are used in hospitals, offices and advertisements to get desired effects. They can make us feel agitated or calm. Color can even help you to lose weight! Did you know that if you eat off of a blue plate the food looks less appetizing? The study of light is very complex. In today's world it is used in every aspect of life from building lasers and the Hubble telescope to changing the way we feel and how we interact around others.



Next-gen gaming consoles launch over weekend

BY WILLIAM BREIM
SCI-TECH EDITOR

Hours of waiting, long lines, fights and muggings outside retailers in America. It sounds like a national crisis but actually it is all over two new gaming consoles. Fans have been waiting nervously for months for the release of two more consoles members of the next generation of gaming. The excitement culminated last week when the



Playstation 3

Sony's Playstation 3 (\$600) was released in America on Saturday midnight and Nintendo's Wii(\$250) 24 hours later.

Both consoles were sold out minutes after stores opened as each retailer could only serve a fraction of the people waiting. At a Best Buy in Annapolis, Maryland the store was faced with a crowd of 400 people and only a handful of PS3 units, the store owner decided not to open the store for fear of violence and the police was called by seven in the morning three arrests had been made. In Indiana, a man was stabbed after he and a friend tried to rob two men of consoles they had waited in line for three days buy. A man in Putnam, Connecticut was shot when two gunmen confronted people standing outside a Wal-Mart and demanded money, the man who was shot resisted giving up his money. Another shopper was surrounded and beaten by five men as he left a mall with his newly-purchased PS3. And in Fresno, California, two people

were arrested after a crowd trampled people in a parking lot.

All that happened in a span of hours during the PS3 launch. Only twenty-four hours later on Sunday midnight the Wii was to launch, surprisingly there were no reported cases of violence compared to the PS3 launch, that was largely due to the much more plentiful supply of Wii units and the Wii's demographic of buyer which include heavily parents buying for their children.

The competition now heats up with the last two next generation consoles joining the battle with the Microsoft's Xbox360 which has been out for many months now. No one is sure yet who will lead this generation of gaming. The Xbox360 had a significant head start and has amazing graphics comparable to the PS3. The xbox360 has also done an amazing job integrating online play on its console and multimedia features such as a HD-DVD player are which is coming out soon. The Playstation3 has slightly



Nintendo Wii

more powerful graphics and it integrates a blue-ray DVD player a competing DVD technology. Although the Wii is not nearly as powerful graphics-wise it costs about less than half of what the Xbox360 and PS3 do, and with an innovative controller and famous launch titles like Legend of Zelda coming out it is a very real contender for the title, the

Wii's price also tag encourages hardcore gamers to buy one to have in addition to one the other systems, so Nintendo doesn't have to win over customers but instead just join the competition. Only time will tell who comes out victorious but one thing is for sure, the gaming industry and the gamers themselves have won.

World Wide Web page count hits new record

Netcraft internet statistics officially record over 100 million webpages

BY WILLIAM BREIM
SCI-TECH EDITOR

Remember when people used to have to say "oh, go to the website at www—"? Nowadays the internet is so popular and such an essential part of modern living that people hardly have to utter that a website name starts www. It is no wonder that the web now reached the milestone of 100 million pages. Of the 100 million though about half is what is called an *active website* a site that is updated periodically.

In North America resides 5.1 percent of the population of the world but we account for 21 percent of the internet usage with a whopping 69 percent penetration rate, which mean 2 out of 3 people at least have access to internet. The growth of internet users was of little more than 100 percent this past year.

Netcraft, an internet monitoring company has been keeping tabs on the growth of the internet since 1995 when, according to their figures, there were only 18 million recorded websites. It took until May 2004 to reach the 50 million milestone. A little over two

years later, according to their new study, we've now hit the 100 million mark.

Why such rapid growth? The simple truth is that it is much easier to have a website today, with tools to create blogs and personal pages.

Web development used to require a working knowledge of HTML (a computer language for designing websites), and other computer-based tools. With the creation of robust site development software as well as companies that will host and maintain sites for modest fees, it is no longer necessary to have a deep understanding of the technology supporting sites to have one of your own.

The blogosphere is direct evidence that virtually everyone can have a lively presence on the Web, whatever his level of technical expertise. Computers have become more accessible and more inexpensive, and the creation of "Web 2.0" sites, such as Flickr, MySpace and YouTube, sites that offer social network coupled with services to share information among the users have attracted millions of users. The internet is here to stay as and it solidifies its place as the main artery of the Information age.

Buying a computer versus building a computer

BY GRANT ABRAHAM
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With the holidays coming up, tech-savvy students are on the look-out for new digital gadgets they can buy for their computer.

Most people do not understand how a computer works and do not care to learn. For these people, there isn't any reason to put more effort into learning how their system works beyond the usual use of their system.

But, for those who do go the extra effort to learn how to put together a system, they can usually reap the rewards of having their custom-built system tweaked for maximum performance, at a

cost usually less than that of an equivalent retail sale.

The only requirement is that one be dedicated to learning how to put the system together. It's not difficult, but there is a lot of information to memorize if one wishes to get the most out of their system without causing terrible burns to themselves.

Yes, it is entirely possible that, if you don't know what you're doing, you can set your computer hardware on fire. Do not attempt this if you are unsure of yourself, or have decent level of knowledge to prevent any problems from arising—or a computer nerd friend handy.

The best sites to start learning how to put together

a system, as well as find specifications on various pieces of computer hardware, are listed below.

Have fun, and don't burn yourself!

THE BEST SITES

Tom's Hardware

www.tomshardware.com

Reviews and instructions (click "Build Your Own") on how to set up your own system.

NewEgg

www.newegg.com

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Smoking tends to irritate? Designate.

BY CAMI CARR
LAYOUT EDITOR

What is a heated national topic, can cause cancer and is now mostly banned on Central campus? Smoking is now soon to be enforced to strict designated after a two year running project concerning it now comes to fruition.

Two years ago during a meeting of the Provost Advisement Committee both faculty and staff broached a heated topic with Provost Dr. Lois Bolton: the state of Central Campus as a smoking or non-smoking facility. "What we were doing was taking a look at how smoking is dealt with and how to make the best out of the situation," said Bolton. After another year passed, most of the work trying to convert the campus to a mostly non-smoking institution was done.

What was established were some designated areas for smokers to feel comfortable while keeping the rest of the non-smoking campus visitors and students comfortable in not having to deal with other's habits. "It became sort of a flip-flop from what it had been before," said Bolton. The committee has yet to implement their new rules, reason for why so many students and faculty remain in the dark on its subject, beyond having numerous signs stating either an area is smoke free or not. Plans are being made to publicize the new set up soon (around Term 2) through emails, posts on the campus website and postings making clear the restrictions



PHOTO BY JOHNNY LOUIS

The various signs posted all over Central show the start of the campaign.

throughout the campus.

Students reaction ranges from deep concern to apparent non-interest. Jessica Schmitt, a BCC Central student and a smoker, has much to say on the topic, "I've seen many of the signs all around campus, from around the library to the art building and they signs contradict each other. Why? It seems like they need to try and stay consistent." said Schmitt. Her thought is that maybe carried away in the wave of a new, not thoroughly thought through plan, precautions were not taken to ensure the final purpose of the designation plan. Grant Rubino, a full time Central student and another smoker was also beguiled by the news of smoking designation, "Believe it or not, I didn't even know there were designated smoking sections around," said Rubino.

Non-smokers too had thoughts

on the postings and the imminent enforcement of the smoking areas. "I have to deal with people blowing all that noxious smoke everywhere and then I see signs and try to point them out to the apparent offenders and they just scoff. If the signs are in place, why aren't they being enforced?" said student Lissy Wimby. Taryn Crews-Parker shows her gratitude, "It's a great thing to begin to instate. I think it's good if you want to avoid second hand smoke completely," said Crews-Parker.

Bolton is positive that this is a good move to make in the interest of both smokers and non smokers alike. "I value recommendations from both sides and think implementing it officially now is right. I hope that both the views of smokers and their counterparts believe their rights have been upheld," said Bolton.

Study Abroad and face the consequences

BY BUZZ LAMB
STAFF WRITER

Some people have wanderlust. Other people are inquisitive. Still others long to explore far-away places. Whatever the reasoning, people like to travel. Some BCC students may be planning a trip to a foreign country during the Holiday break.

Students need to be aware of certain dangers that they may encounter due to careless or reckless behavior while traveling abroad. The State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs is responsible for the protection and welfare of U.S. citizens overseas.

According to the U.S. Department of State, each year more than 2,500 American citizens are arrested abroad. About half are arrested on narcotics charges, including possession of very small amount of illegal substances. Disorderly or reckless behavior is to be avoided. Some young Americans go abroad assuming that local authorities will overlook such conduct, believing that they are immune from prosecution in foreign countries because they are American citizens.

In many countries, conduct that would not result in an arrest in the United States may constitute a violation of local law. Besides drugs, students have been arrested for being intoxicated in public areas, for underage drinking and for drunk driving. The truth is that Americans are expected to obey all laws of the countries they visit, and those who break these laws could face severe penalties, including prison sentences.

According to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, once an American leaves the United States soil, U.S. laws and constitutional rights no longer apply. U.S. Consular officers can visit jailed Americans to see that they are being fairly and humanely treated, but cannot get them out of jail or intervene in a foreign country's legal system on their behalf. Contrary to popular belief, the U.S. Consular officer cannot demand your immediate release or get you out of jail or out of the country.

Although drug laws vary from country to country, it is important to realize that many foreign countries do not react lightly to drug offenders. In some countries, anyone caught with even a very small quantity for personal use may be tried and receive the same sentence as the large-scale trafficker. Additionally, bail is not granted in many countries when drugs are involved and, unlike the United States, often the burden of proof is on the accused to prove his/her innocence.

A travel warning pamphlet produced by the Department of State says that in some countries, evidence obtained illegally by local authorities may be admissible in court and few countries offer drug offenders jury trials or even require the prisoner's presence at his/her trial. Additionally, a number of countries, including the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Mexico have enacted more stringent drug laws which impose mandatory jail sentences of seven years or life, without the possibility of parole, for drug violations.

On January 8, 2007, ALL persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling by air between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda will be required to present a valid passport, Air NEXUS card, or U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Document.

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative is the Administration's proposed plan that will require all travelers, U.S. citizens and foreign nationals alike to present a passport or other document, or combination of documents, which denote the identity and citizenship when entering the United States. As early as January 1, 2008, ALL persons, including U.S. citizens traveling between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda by land or sea (including ferries) may be required to present a valid passport or other documents as determined by the Department of Homeland Security.

Before departing, take some time to do some research about the people and their culture, and any problems that the country is experiencing that may affect your travel plans. The Department of State publishes "Background Notes" on about 170 countries and they are available at www.state.gov.

The Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs Office of Overseas Citizens Services provide emergency services pertaining to the protection of Americans arrested or detained abroad, the search for U.S. citizens overseas, the transmission of emergency messages to those citizens or their next of kin in the United States and other emergency and non-emergency services. Contact the Office of Overseas Citizens Services from Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 202-647-5225. For an emergency after hours or on weekends and holidays, ask for the "Overseas Citizens Services" duty officer at 202-647-4000, or visit their website on the Internet at: <http://travel.state.gov>

Online dating: Safe or sorry?

BY NATASHA DWYER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's 10:00 p.m. on a Friday night, you're home alone and bored yet again. Another consecutive weekend with nothing to do and nowhere to go; might as well go check your Myspace: no new comments, no new messages and no new nothing. An advertisement for www.match.com the number one dating site pops up. "Meet your match, "Love is only a click away." Why not just browse the photos, harmless right? While browsing you come across quite a few people you would like to meet. Considering the current situation of your non-existent social life you decide to commit for one month. At a rate of \$38.98

(this rate includes relationship insight from Dr. Phil, otherwise the rate is \$29.99 for a one month subscription) you right click with hopes of companionship not far away. Click. You have now entered the world of on line dating.

Online dating has become not only popular among youngsters, but also quite lucrative. With partner sites such as Chemistry.com and advertising and affiliate program recommendation. Online dating is booming. A recent poll taken on Match.com states that more than 80 million people are single and more than half of those people have an online dating account. Recent research based on www.match.com singles shows that 88% of

Match subscribers are likely to be attracted to someone they met on an online dating service. A whopping 52 percent of Match.com subscribers are likely to be attracted to someone they meet in a bar or nightclub and 43 percent of single women would consider having a child without a romantic partner. Information such as the one stated above poses the question is on line dating safe or sorry?

Several BCC students admitted to being a member of some type of organized dating website. Out of those students more than half have found what they consider love. However there are many people who have had scary and appalling experiences. One BCC student states it only earned her a stalker. Dating has always and will always have its ups and downs, precautions should always be taken. Date however you would like; yet, at your own risk. It's a battle field out there and we are young croons Pat Benatar, but you never know you may just come out a winner. The question still stands, is online dating safe or sorry?



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MATCH.COM

Match.com is not only a well marketed dating site but a newly growing corporate dot com venture.

Congress goes from Republican to Democratic

BY RICK DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday Nov. 7 multiple milestones were passed during the national midterm elections. The Democratic Party regained control of the House and are projected to take control of the Senate as well although that hangs in the balance of two states where the decision may literally lie in a few votes. Also, Representative Nancy Pelosi, who had been the House Minority Leader, will now become the first female Speaker of the House as her Party comes into the majority for the next session of Congress.

While many may only notice elections every four years when The President is elected there are elections every two years as called for by Article I of the Constitution. With many voters unhappy about issues like the economy, the Iraq war and a host of scandals the weeks before the election brought the 2006 midterms to a rare national stage that was flanked by an onslaught of political ads and commentary.

Congressional elections are held every two years, where

alternating elections also elect The President. In each election the entire House of Representatives as well as roughly one-third of the Senate are elected. Representatives are chosen by the constituents in their district, usually around 500,000 voters, while Senators are elected by all the voters in their state. Before reaching the main election most nominees must also pass through a primary election which decides each party's candidate during the main election. This takes place a few months beforehand usually in the form of a closed election where you may only vote for a member of the party you are registered with however open elections are still held in some areas.

Of the amazing number of elected officials in the U.S. only 542 are at the federal level, those are the President, Vice-President, 100 Senators, 435 Representatives and 5 delegates from other US territories.

The 109th Congress

(the congressional session from 2004-2006) gave the Republican Party overwhelming control in both the House and Senate. Republicans claimed 55 seats in the Senate along with 232 in the House compared to Democrats that controlled 44 in the Senate and 201 in the House.

Going into the 2006 elections all of the House seats and 33 Senate seats were up for grabs. Of those 36 (32 in House and 4 in Senate) were open, meaning there was no incumbent candidate running for reelection. Also, of all the seats 64 were considered nearly uncontested as whoever was running had no major opposition

from the opposing party.

Taking a majority in the House requires the control of 218 seats while The Senate is a little more complicated. There are 100 seats in the Senate although the Vice-President has the option to cast a tie-breaker vote. Since the current Vice-President is Republican there would need to be 51 seats controlled by the Democrats in order to have the majority while anything less, including a frustrating 50-50 split, would leave control with the Republicans.

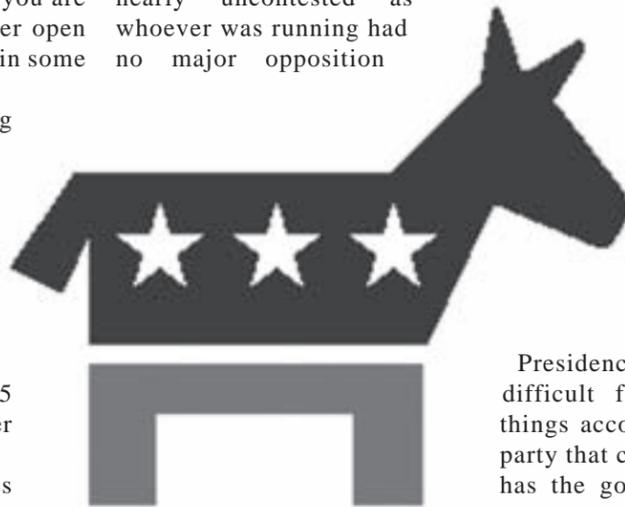
All of this becomes an intricate dance that our nation's leaders perform and depending on who has control of which areas a variety of outcomes ensue. With opposing parties in control of Congress and The

Presidency it can often be difficult for either to get things accomplished while a party that controls both often has the golden ticket to do

what they like.

Certainly, the nation at large has been concerned or even outraged about various points of current U.S. policy and actions and that showed as the national result was to excuse the Republican Party in favor of overwhelming Democratic control. Not only will this change current issues and bring back those that have been dormant but it will be easier for the Democrats to keep control in the next election where the coattails of whichever party is favored often ushers in a new President.

Days after the elections some races are still too close to call although all of the major news sources predict Democratic control for both the House and Senate. Of the 435 House seats the Democrats took at least 229, a gain of 29 seats with 10 still undecided. In the Senate the Democrats took 24 of the 33 at state for a total of 51 and a gain of 6 over the previous session. Also, of importance were the 36 races for Governor that took place where Democrats won at least 20 of these to control 28 of the 50 states.



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GreenPeace's "Project HotSeat" comes to BCC

Global Warming becomes an in-your-face issue with "National Day of Action"

BY CAMI CARR
LAYOUT EDITOR

On Saturday, Nov. 4 at 12 p.m., GreenPeace, the National environmental awareness group held what they termed as the "National Day of Action on Global Warming" at John U. Lloyd State Park, just outside Fort Lauderdale. The National Day of Action was a success with many environmentally concerned people attending to form the image of an umbrella with the bold words "Stop Global Warming" on the beach with their bodies. The aerial shot was photographed by local photographer John Quigley. The image was sent to local news and publications to show that the people of our nation do care about environmental issues.

The environmental group's newest, though long standing, cause is Global Warming, a steadily growing harm that is Internationally effecting. The project's name is Project Hot Seat and is lead by 20 college students who have gathered from all over the country in the name of their cause to hot spots being effected even now by Global Warming. They have gone to 6 different National congressional districts

to find scope in their positions and make their plan well known

A smaller group of GreenPeace's leadership students visited Fort Lauderdale and its many colleges in order to get out the word on their project, entitled "Project HotSeat." Their hard work involved both the National Day of Action and a project of 2,000 petitions that will go straight to South Florida's two congressional candidates. They spent over a week petitioning and speaking with many classes and students on Central Campus, Clay Shaw and Ron Klein. Tori Mueller, a Green Peace Student Organizer is trying to find a way for many to find out about the problem and how they can help. "When we send the petitions we want these two representatives to become champions for both Green Peace and Global Warming. Our main goal is to get the ball rolling and we want it to keep going. It's our main election issue," said Mueller. Green Peace, non-partisan group, recognizes that it needs support from those with power who can get the messages out and to make people aware of the true danger of Global Warming.

"Global Warming is here and it's affecting the oceans the most,



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREENPEACE

John Quigley's aerial shot of the beach at John U. Lloyd State Park.

like our vulnerable coral reefs and wildlife, it creates harmful red tides. It's accelerating the Hurricanes that Florida has come to be so fearful of as well. Within 100 years, if no one tries to halt the growth of Global Warming and stunt the emissions leading to it, New York City is projected to be underwater," said Mueller.

From Green Peace's statistics it is seen that the USA is

responsible for 25 percent of the world's Global Warming emissions though we consist of only 5 percent of the global population. The Kyoto Protocol, a globally recognized act for the response of renewable energy and its instatement has been signed by every represented country in the world with the exception of Australia and the U.S.

This, in Mueller's opinion, is a

very bad thing indeed. "The rest of the world recognizes Global Warming as an intensely harmful issue and yet the 2 countries remain resolute in just ignoring it. The Kyoto Protocol is the next step to trying to mend the damage," says Mueller.

For more information on this and other GreenPeace projects and causes, please visit www.greenpeace.com.



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Graphic design students with experience in Adobe Photoshop and Adobe InDesign are wanted to assist in the layout and design of the paper. Must be creative and able to work on deadline. Prior professional experience not required, but is a plus. Applicants must bring samples of their work to The Observer.

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Those with artistic talent and are interested in drawing are encouraged to submit a sample of their work to *The Observer*. Digital submissions are preferred, but not required.

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CORRECTIONS

The Observer would like to make a correction on the article called "PTK emphasizes health living." Veronica Malo, Vice President of Scholarships for PTK's BCC South Campus' Alpha Delta Rho, was the only person who was involved in the organization and process of this week-long event entitled "Health Week," which took two months to organize. Luis Soriano's only part on this event was to referee the tug of war game.

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ILLUSTRATION BY CAMI CARR

I want a new duck

BY NATHANIEL KAYE
BCC STUDENT

Muscovy ducks have red bulbous patches around the eyes and beak, which in the adult male can become grotesquely swollen. Feral Muscovy ducks now live in many parts of South Florida, and often settle permanently around suburban lakes. They have the potential to become pests.

When I first moved to my apartment in South Florida, there were about 5 of these birds living around my apartment complex. I knew right away that somebody had been feeding them because whenever I opened my patio door, they waddled over and looked right at me. I grew up knowing that bird experts at the Audubon Society recommend against feeding wild duck populations because of the behavioral

changes caused by it. I explained the principle to the people on the second-story balcony and they stopped throwing bread down at the ducks.

However, the lady who used to live in the apartment across from my door didn't comply so easily. She used to sit out on her porch all day smoking cigarettes and throwing cat food on the sidewalk for the birds to eat. "Catfood is good for ducks," she insisted. It might not have agreed with the ducks' stomachs and the discolored duck droppings left stains on the sidewalk that are still visible months later.

The Muscovy ducks were lured away from the lake to the sidewalk and strip of grass by the parking lot. They began to forage less and less. And as springtime rolled around, they began to multiply like mad. It became the

duck prerogative to convert as much cat food as possible into ducklings.

Now it's fine to raise ducks in a domesticated setting, where a population is guaranteed a continuous food supply, and is therefore sustainable, as long as conditions are sanitary. Waterfowl like ducks and geese found in the wild are more likely to have bird flu than other birds. According to the Audubon and government health officials those most at risk of contracting diseases like bird flu or salmonella from birds are those who feed them and come in contact with their droppings.

Even if people were responsible and kept Muscovy ducks under control, they would still be ugly in my opinion. Why can't we have beautiful mallards instead? It's not like the Muscovy is a native species anyway.



PHOTO BY JOHNNY LOUIS

These Muscovy ducks are considered ugly by some students.

Issues that concern you: Campus parking

BY ANGELA OSBORNE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Every morning the same scene unfolds. You see them. You may even be one of them. It starts with the long line to turn into the parking lot, the almost immediately the line of cars disbursts and then starts the hunt. This hunt is far more important than breakfast, and far more dangerous than marching inside a department store for the day after Thanksgiving Day sale. It's the search for a parking space.

If arrival to central campus isn't scheduled with military precision, students will find themselves facing, a lose-lose situation. Students can be late and continue looking for a parking spot, or park someplace they shouldn't and risking receiving an obligation from security. If option one is chosen, students may hear the wrath of professors, who just don't seem to understand the situation, or worse be locked out of a class or exam. And option two only leaves you with a \$10 obligation, which can get expensive if you make a habit out of it, and not to mention those two lines of adhesive that gets left on the driver's side window for the rest of eternity.

This seems like a lot of hassle for \$3 a credit hour doesn't it? Oh but wait there's the talk of a parking garage that will help with the parking nightmare, right? The students on Central Campus have been waiting years for this garage to be built, so surely it must be a myth.

So students are left with this problem everyday. Either arrive hours early for class to start the prowl, or find another solution.

When driving down the highway at almost every exit has the signs that say "Try Carpooling." And if more drivers paid attention it would solve the congestion issues during rush hour. But if students at Broward Community College (BCC) carpoled, there would be fewer cars and less space needed to park them. This is asking a lot of students, to give up a few minutes of their day to pick up another person and then come to school, but if enough students carpoled that time could be made up because the hunt for a parking spot wouldn't take as long.

There are so many excuses not too. "I go to work right after class, I like to go out for lunch and I don't live by anybody else that comes here." There are thousands of students who come to BCC surely someone is a few minutes away. Not that is expected for students to read this and immediately want to find a carpooling buddy. When commuters carpool on the interstate there is an incentive, the HOV lane. Students should have some form of incentive to try this out, like a scholarship or closer parking spaces.

By ignoring the problem it isn't going to go away and that's what has been happening for years. And now BCC charges for the privilege of having this headache everyday. Students should complain about paying to park, because colleges everywhere charge for parking and it is the norm, but instead of just complaining students should try to find solutions, so the complaints are taken more seriously.

BY BELAL JABER
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Joe B. Rushing undertook his responsibilities as the first President of Broward Community College on April 7, 1960. The following autumn, with an enrollment of 701 students, the College opened its doors in buildings formerly used by the Naval Air Station at the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport.

From this beginning, the College has experienced solid growth in facilities, number of students and quality of programs. But apparently not PARKING SPACES!

This campus was formally used by the Naval Air Station? What were they flying, micro machines? I can't take the madness anymore.

I don't like coming to school an hour before my first class and get into an intense battle of road rage with fellow students who are in the same situation as I am. I believe that it is no longer possible to arrive in school and park your car. You must wait for an automobile to pull out and then speed through the lot at your vehicle's own risk and take the departing vehicle's spot.

Today, BCC Central Campus has nearly 25,000 students and 300 teachers. I'm thinking something with as many people might benefit from, oh, I don't know, a parking garage? Makes sense to me. Except there has apparently been a plan for such a parking garage for over three years now, and it may be just me, but I don't see it.

So since it doesn't look like the parking problems are going to be resolved anytime soon, I guess we continue to go in circles (literally) with this whole dilemma. I mean let's face it...the silly rabbit has a better chance at getting some Trix cereal.

And then there's Marilyn Manson. He actually attended this campus. And yes, he might come across as this evil, demented man. But perhaps, all his frustration and anger stems from not being able to park his car when he was a student here. Call me crazy, but that's about the only thing that makes sense.

Regretfully at your service

A full-time student speaks out on mistreatment as a waitress

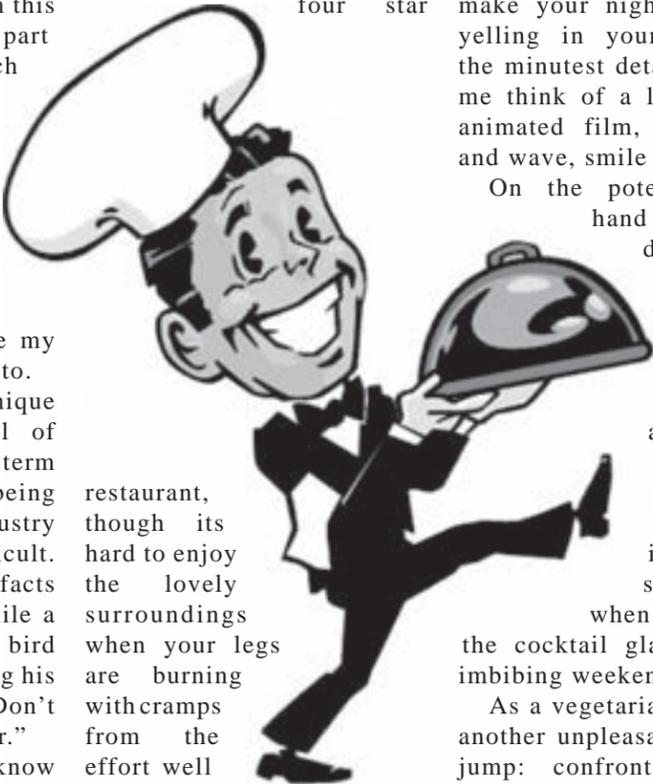
BY CAMI CARR
LAYOUT EDITOR

As a full time student who both is a layout editor on this campus newspaper and a part time waitress, I have much to say on my situation. My life is becoming a delicate and tiring balancing act with little thanks nor rest. My time is precious and over filled and all my hope is centered on the bright future I hope my education will bring me to.

Florida has a unique situation, a high level of retirees and long term tourists, which make being in the food service industry that much more difficult. My mind abounds with facts for upcoming exams while a grouchy Michigan snow bird bothers me about refilling his tenth glass of iced tea, "Don't forget the 2 lemons, dear."

Would you like to know the contents of our premiere dessert menu? I'm sorry, I can't remember due to all this collegiate information

crammed into my sleepy brain, how do you feel about crême brulee? I'm so glad I work at a four star



restaurant, though it's hard to enjoy the lovely surroundings when your legs are burning with cramps from the effort well into the tenth hour of your twelve hour Sunday shift.

It's hard to complain though when your smile is dead set on faking happiness while someone decides to make your night harder by yelling in your face over the minutest detail. It makes me think of a line from an animated film, "Just smile and wave, smile and wave."

On the potential upper hand though, my days going to the gym are combated by all the trays of plates and glasses I carry. The run-walking I do is enough to sustain a mile when refilling the cocktail glasses of the imbibing weekend masses.

As a vegetarian I have yet another unpleasant hurdle to jump: confrontations with meat, in all its forms, on a daily basis. I know it must be thought, "Get another job if life has become so mournful

for you." This seems like a welcome suggestion but with a full college schedule, do you know a job that pays \$250 a night and is as flexible as a Hungarian gymnast?

So limited by my agenda of studying, I have to bare down and accept my situation until the sky opens up after getting my Bachelor's degree (a community college A.A. degree cant get you much anywhere, no matter what they tell you) and finally I am able to support my lifestyle as a full time Journalist. Anything worth doing is worth doing to the best of

your ability.

If one isn't sure on how life on your own is during college, working and going to class to better your life – this modern world doesn't make it easier on you. Cost of living is the highest in history and a college degree no longer assures a stable career. You need to be the best of the best in your field as well as in many other talents to make it anywhere. Even if it means sacrifice in the form of four years of college and a trying waitressing job, if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere.

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY? YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

Got a gripe? Want to vent your frustration? Maybe you have some words of praise or accolades for a fellow student or event. Or, perhaps you just want to scream at our editors? *No problem!*

We want to hear from you. If you have an opinion and want others to know, write us and let us know what the deal is. If you want to talk to our editors, write a letter and we'll publish it. Just don't forget to include your name and phone number, and sign your letter. Read our policy (below) for more details.

To tip, or not to tip

BY BELAL JABER
STAFF WRITER

I'm basically a no tipper. And I'm proud of it. It's all so confusing: ten, fifteen, or eighteen percent? If the waiter is so good, do you tip them 50 percent and add them as a dependent on your W-4?

I do make two exceptions. If there is a family owned restaurant where one spouse is in the kitchen and the other is serving, and when I'm waited on in a classic diner environment by a woman who has waited tables for over 50 years. Both instances will

find a fair tip of 15 percent when I leave the table.

For the rest of you, fault your management for your poor wage. Your salary is not the responsibility of your customers.

Fast food places don't require tips. You order your food. You pay for your food. You get your food. You're telling me if the person behind the counter



were to walk five feet and deliver me my Big Mac, they would then deserve some gratuity?

If I'm hungry, I'm coming to a restaurant to eat! I want to enjoy my meal, and then pay for it and leave. I don't want

any small talk or conversation, or some therapy session from some 19-year-old waitress with four kids, who has measles, and no father. I didn't come to earn my PhD in psychology. I came to eat some cheese fries, drink my Root Beer and be on my way.

So stop complaining. Stop bickering. And stop wearing the fake smile you put on in front of your customers to try to weasel your way into their wallet. You may have some people fooled, but not me. The only way you're getting a tip out of me, is for Crime Stoppers. And that's only

because it involves a reward.

When you go to an eating establishment, it is the server's responsibility to rush out the food with their main priority of serving well, and then getting you out as quickly as possible.

That type of service is not worthy of a tip; especially for a meal that most of the time is no match for my own gourmet cooking.

After all, I can make a fine Hot Pocket at home without feeling the pressure to tip the waiter or waitress for walking five feet and giving me my food.

Broward Community College

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COMMENTARY
MIKE GONZALEZ

Lady Seahawks: An endangered species?

The Lady Seahawks are off to a slow start going 0-4 so far this season.

In their opening season game, against Daytona Beach Community College, the Lady Seahawks were unable to gain any momentum losing 72-55 in a poor offensive effort.

In their next game, it was the same story losing to Santa Fe Community College 70-56.

Hoping to get their offensive swagger back with six days of rest and practice, the Lady Seahawks had their shot of revenge in a rematch with Daytona Beach Community College. Daytona Beach took full advantage of every miscue the Lady Seahawks made losing 75-50.

The Lady Seahawks have a long drought ahead not playing any games till Nov. 24 as they bump heads with Ave Maria University. The next day, the Lady Seahawks play a double-header at the Omni playing Itasca Community College and Union County College.

In December, the Lady Seahawks go 27 straight days without having any competition. After their game against North Florida Community College on Dec. 2, the next game played is not until Dec. 29 when St. Louis Community College invades the Omni.

Update on former Seahawk

Miami Hurricane and former Seahawk Center Carla Williams has had a slow start so far this season.

Appearing in two games, Williams is averaging four points a game while snatching down two rebounds near seven minutes a game.

After getting shut out in her first game in a win against Georgia State, Williams responded positively scoring eight points in a win over the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Williams did most of her damage from the free throw line swishing four out of five attempts.

Future games for Williams include Jan. 3, 2007 against the sixth-ranked Lady Blue Devils and the defending NCAA Women's Champions, the Lady Terrapins of Maryland on Jan. 10, 2007.

SEE THE LADY
SEAHAWKS'
BASKETBALL
SCHEDULE
ON PAGE 20!



PHOTO BY DAVID COOPER

Miklos Szabo attempts to save the Seahawks with this amazing shot during their opening game against St. Petersburg College on November 10.

KEEP PRACTICING

Seahawks are feeling their game slip away

BY MIKE GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

So far, so bad for the BCC teams this year.

The men's basketball season has started like a car wreck by going 1-4 in their first five games.

In their most recent game, the Seahawks fell short in a losing effort against Polk Community College with a final score of 58-55. Guard Tony Dennison was the highest scorer with 27 points.

Dennison is averaging a double-double this season by averaging almost 23 points as well as 10 rebounds a game.

Dennison is also fourth on the team in field goal shooting percentage. Head Coach Bob Starkman needs to find the antidote for their non-existent offense that only averages close to 67 points a game while allowing 82 points a game.

In their season opener, the Seahawks looked flat losing to Santa Fe Community College 83-70, followed by a more

contested loss to St. Johns River Community College 99-95. Their only win came on a forfeit win against Key West Community College. With the forfeit win giving the Seahawks a boost of confidence, St. Petersburg Community College proved to be too strong down the stretch edging the Seahawks 92-84.

Center Miklos Szabo is currently second on the team in scoring averaging an even 13 points a game while snatching down 9 rebounds. Szabo is also one of the Seahawks' most consistent free throw shooters shooting an outstanding 87% from the line.

Along with his size and physical play, Szabo has proven to be a lethal sharpshooter from the three-point line with an accuracy of 44 percent, way above average at any level of basketball.

The Seahawks schedule does not appear to get any easier as they pack their bags and play three games in three days.

First, they head off to

Charlotte, North Carolina to face Belmont Abbey University for a quick back-to-back pair of games. Then they travel to Gaffney, South Carolina to play against Limestone University. On Nov. 21, The Seahawks invade Miami as they square off against Johnson & Wales University's high octane offense.

Update on former Seahawk

Florida Atlantic University Owl and former Seahawk Seydou Kone has played in two games in his collegiate basketball career.

In his first game, Kone played 10 minutes in a 95-50 loss to Oklahoma State.

Kone scored no points and had only 1 rebound. In his second game, Kone played as if he was back at the Omni scoring 8 points making four of his five shots.

For the season, Kone is averaging four points a game and grabbing down one rebound shooting 57 percent from the field.

COMMENTARY
MARTIN BATER

Do you believe in Miracles?

By the time you are reading this, the Dolphins have already played the Minnesota Vikings and they are either 4-6 (if they won) or 3-7 (if they lost.) If they are 4-6 I got news for all Dolfans: It ain't over.

I'm taking a HUGE gamble here by writing a column that is based on the Dolphins getting their third victory in a row by beating Brad Johnson and his 4-5 Vikings who are second in the lame NFC North.

The Dolphins are going to make the playoffs, or at least put up a hell of a fight to do so. I know what you are thinking. This guy is crazy, no team that has Joey Harrington as its starting quarterback and Wes Welker as its leading receiver could possibly even conceive winning nine straight games to finish 10-6 and make the postseason.

Let's look at our possible wild card rivals: the AFC West will have one for sure, with the 7-2 San Diego Chargers or Denver Broncos getting the number 5 seed. Now, for the sixth seed, it gets interesting. The 5-4 Jacksonville Jaguars lost at home to the Houston Texans and don't know which quarterback to start, the Cincinnati Bengals started 3-0 but by Week 10 they had lost 5 of their last six. The 5-4 Jets look solid and beat the Patriots at New England, but they are a young team too. Of course we can't count out just yet the defending champions, the Pittsburgh Steelers, if they won last week they are also 4-6.

The Dolphins remaining schedule looks like this: Lions, Jaguars, Patriots (oh my!), Bills, Jets and Colts.

Lions on Thanksgiving is very winnable, and if the Fins play solid at home they can beat the Jags. That puts us 6-6 going into the make or break game of the year against New England at home. On a Sunday night in mid December, the Dolphins will find themselves confident about being in the playoff chase; the only problem is the Pats have our number lately.

If the Dolphins win there, Buffalo awaits in frigid New York weather. The next game is on Christmas day on Monday Night football against the hated New York J-E-T-S Can't wait for that doubleheader with the Miami Heat facing the L.A Lakers that same afternoon.

Ok, if we are 9-6 by then we face the Indianapolis Colts at Indy. This may be reaching a little, but can you imagine the Dolphins fighting for the last playoff spot facing Peyton Manning and a team that is 15-0? That would be the ultimate game, I'm sure Bob Kuechenberg will have something to say before then.